

U.S.: 430,000 Iraqis in or near Kuwait

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defense Department said Tuesday there were now 430,000 Iraqi troops in or near Kuwait, an increase of 70,000 over the past week. But Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams refused to say how many of those troops were actually in Kuwait and he told reporters the Iraqi forces remained essentially in a defensive posture. The Pentagon said last week there were approximately 360,000 Iraqi troops either in Kuwait or areas of Iraq north and west of Kuwait. That was up from 265,000 the previous week. Williams said there were now some 3,500 Iraqi tanks, 2,500 armoured personnel carriers and about 1,700 artillery pieces in the region. That was an increase of 700 tanks, 700 personnel carriers and 200 artillery pieces over the past week. He said Pentagon analysts felt the major increases in Iraqi troop strength was that some heavy armoured units had been moved out of Kuwait and replaced by infantry units containing more soldiers. "Our analysts think what they (Iraqis) are gaining here is flexibility," Williams said.

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Jordan recalls ambassador to Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has recalled its ambassador to Saudi Arabia in protest at the closure of its military attaché's office in Riyadh and an enforced cut in the number of its diplomats, the foreign ministry announced Tuesday. A ministry official described the Saudi move as "unjustifiable."

Journalists urge Bush to avert war

AMMAN (J.T.) — The leader of a group of self-described conservative journalists has appealed to President George Bush to avert war in the Gulf. "Though the public polls show substantial support for immediate actions in Iraq and the shrill still for bellicose Zionists, Mr. (William) Safire and other Israeli spokesmen are urging you to attack Iraq, Israel will be the only winner," said James G. Knox, founder of American Focus, in a letter addressed to Bush. "The American people will come to understand that their real and 'vital' interest in fact is not in the Persian Gulf," said the Aug. 27 letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times. "Please do not allow our Israeli 'friends' to take an 'incident' which will cause you to make an unwise response. Simply keep the pressure on and negotiate. No shooting, please!" it said.

U.N. adopts aid resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council Monday adopted a brief resolution calling for aid to nations suffering economic hardship from loss of trade with Iraq. They include Jordan and about a dozen other countries.

Saudi killed in car crash, 4 U.S. Marines injured

DAHRAN (AP) — A Saudi Arabian civilian was killed and six people, including four U.S. Marines, were injured in a two-vehicle collision on a Saudi expressway, U.S. military officials said Tuesday. They said the accident involving a civilian taxi and a marine vehicle, occurred about 1.20 p.m. (0930 GMT) Monday on the six-lane highway 3 kilometres north of Jubail, a major oil port on the Gulf. A statement issued by U.S. officials said the Saudi victim was "pronounced dead at the scene of the accident," and the six injured were taken to a military hospital. The unidentified person was the first Saudi citizen reported killed in an incident involving American military personnel since the buildup in operation Desert Shield began in early August.

Saudi in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived in Damascus Tuesday on a previously unannounced visit for talks on the Gulf crisis, officials and diplomats said. Prince Faisal, who flew in as Syrian President Hafez Al Assad returned from a visit to Iran, told reporters on arrival he was carrying a message for Assad from King Fahd.

Oslo refuses sales to UAE

OSLO (AP) — Parliament voted down a proposal to sell Sidewinder rockets, produced in a European joint venture, to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), news reports said Tuesday. Lawmakers killed the sale in a 19-97 vote late Monday, citing a 1959 law against providing weapons to countries at war or on the brink of war. The emirates had requested the weapons following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Sheikh Jaber heads for U.S.

TAIF (AP) — The exiled emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, left Tuesday for New York on his second public appearance outside Saudi Arabia since Iraq invaded his country. Sheikh Jaber is to address the U.N. General Assembly Thursday.

Iraq, Jordan welcome Mitterrand's peace plan

French envoy says Jordan, France on same course

By Rabab Mango with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Iraq and Jordan Tuesday welcomed a four-stage French plan to resolve the Gulf crisis and achieve peace in the Middle East.

The Iraqi reaction to the plan, outlined by French President Francois Mitterrand in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly Monday, came in an Iraqi News Agency (INA) dispatch which quoted a government spokesman as saying that the French leader's speech was "an attempt to find solution to regional problems," while accepting that it was natural to expect differences between two countries on the way forward in the Gulf crisis.

"We sense a non-aggressive language in the speech... and an attempt to find solutions to regional problems," the spokesman was quoted as saying. "Such a vital and interactive link between problems in the region is what reassures the Arabs and not the premeditated aggressive intentions against them."

"If Iraq would confirm its intentions to withdraw its troops

and free the hostages (Westerners held as detainees against a possible American assault), every thing is possible," Mitterrand had told the U.N. assembly.

He outlined the four stages through which all conflicts of the Middle East, including the Gulf crisis, could be resolved and peace restored to the region. These are:

— Confirmation of Iraqi intentions to withdraw from Kuwait and freedom for all Westerners held in Iraq;

— International guarantees for the withdrawal of foreign military forces and for the restoration of the sovereignty of Kuwait and "the democratic will of the Kuwaiti people";

— Arab and international involvement in efforts to resolve all outstanding problems in the Middle East, including the presence of foreign troops in Lebanon, the aspirations of the Palestinian people for an independent state and the right of Israel to live in security;

— A mutually agreed reduction of arms and the beginning of cooperation in the Arab World "from Iran to Morocco."

Iraq has demanded linking a

U.S. cautiously positive towards French plan

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House reacted cautiously Tuesday to a four-stage plan for a comprehensive Middle East peace agreement proposed by French President Francois Mitterrand.

"We certainly are willing to examine every avenue that would lead to a peaceful solution. But at this moment it's something we'd have to talk to President Mitterrand about and examine in more detail," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Fitzwater added that the United States and France were in accord on the U.N. sanctions against Iraq "and are very close on the course of action that's been taken to implement them."

President George Bush said Monday he was "not going to yield one inch" on his conditions for removing the sanctions, including a complete and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Gulf settlement to the solution of other problems in the Middle East: The Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese problem.

The spokesman quoted by INA Tuesday said such a link was essential since Arabs no longer had confidence in promises made by the international community to restore the rights of the Palestinian people.

In Amman, a senior Foreign Ministry official described the

French initiative as "positive."

"France is very influential in the European Community," the official noted. "The initiative is encouraging because it seeks a negotiated settlement rather than an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait," said the official, who asked not to be quoted by name.

The second stage of the French

(Continued on page 4)

Iraq envoy says Arab forces can stay in S. Arabia

CAIRO (R) — Iraq's envoy to Cairo said Tuesday that Arab forces could stay in Saudi Arabia on condition Western and other non-Arab troops pulled out of the kingdom.

"We do not object to the presence of Arab forces in Saudi Arabia to reassure it, but only on condition all other foreign troops withdraw," Iraqi Ambassador Nabil Nejm Al Takriti said.

Egypt, Morocco and Syria have more than 25,000 men in Saudi Arabia, participating in a U.S.-dominated military buildup following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Takriti said Iraq had no intention of attacking Saudi Arabia and was willing to grant it "all guarantees requested."

"Why should we attack Saudi Arabia? We have good ties with Saudi Arabia and a non-aggression pact," he told Reuters.

Takriti said there could be no solution to the Gulf crisis as long as foreign (non-Arab) troops deployed in Gulf Arab states and warships patrolling the Gulf and Red Sea threatened Iraq.

"If the foreign troops withdraw and the Arab alternative is given a chance through a serious dialogue we can reach a formula which would safeguard pan-Arab security," said the envoy.

But he refused to say if such an Arab formula included Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has repeatedly said that Kuwait is now an integral part of Iraq.

The ambassador was speaking after seeing off his military attaché, Staff Colonel Mohammad Mahmoud Al Meshadi, who was expelled on Friday just two weeks after arriving in Cairo.

Meshadi and his staff were given seven days to leave Egypt in retaliation for Baghdad's expulsion of his

(Continued on page 4)

Crown Prince exchanges views with Security Council members

NEW YORK (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday met the ambassadors to the U.N. of the 15 Security Council members, including the ambassadors of the five permanent member states.

The Crown Prince exchanged views with the ambassadors on the Gulf crisis and on the role of the Security Council in the coming stage.

Prince Hassan explained to the ambassadors Jordan's stand and its efforts to find an Arab resolution to the crisis.

In this regard, Prince Hassan pointed to paragraph three of

Security Council Resolution 660 that calls for extensive negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait to solve the problem and supported Arab League efforts.

Prince Hassan also explained the problems that Jordan faces as a result of abiding by Resolution 661 imposing sanctions on Iraq.

A Security Council committee has already adopted recommendations to solve the special economic problems that Jordan is facing as a result of the resolution. The committee has called on the U.N. secretary general to consult with Jordan in order to evaluate the country's needs re-

sulting from the cut of trade with Iraq and Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem and Jordan's permanent delegate to the U.N. Abdullah Salah.

Prince Hassan also met Pakistani Foreign Minister Yacoub Khan.

The Crown Prince arrived in New York Monday in a working visit to the U.S. He is expected to meet U.S. Congress leaders and senior American officials as well as U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Jordan to get \$127m as W. German grant

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan, one of the worst-hit countries by the Gulf crisis, Tuesday received its first public pledge of financial assistance with a West German grant of DM 200 million (\$127 million).

The assistance would be available to Jordan by October after the West German parliament endorses it and the Kingdom should appropriate it before the end of the year, the ambassador at Bonn's embassy here, Matthias Meyer, told a press conference.

"Jordan is relatively free as to use this aid as it sees fit," Meyer said.

The parliamentary approval for the assistance should not pose a problem but is warranted simply because the aid is not part of the regular West German government budget, the ambassador said.

The DM 200 million is part of a DM 600 million package announced by Bonn to assist Jordan, Turkey and Egypt — countries hardest hit by the Gulf crisis. The aid is over and above the West German contribution of DM 420 million to a package of \$2 billion

announced by the European Community (EC) last month, he said.

The allocations of the EC assistance to the three countries has not been announced yet, and reports from Europe indicate that some of the community's 12 member states are arguing that their contributions to the multinational force were sufficient.

West Germany, which has pledged \$1 billion to the American-led effort against Iraq, is committed to its pledge of DM 420 million to the EC package, according to a press release issued by the embassy here.

Bonn has also extended to Jordan DM 20 million in soft loans for commodity purchases, Meyer said.

"Many countries are involved in the European Community package and so far the amount to be given to Jordan has not been decided," Meyer said.

"The decision should be taken by the end of September," he added.

Jordan has said that it stands to lose \$2.144 billion in the first year of the crisis and that it urgently needs \$1.5 billion in grants and soft loans to grapple with the problem.

Minister of Finance Basim Jarrahneh said that if Jordan does not receive substantial amount of aid before end of October, the Kingdom's "economy faces collapse."

Meyer said that the West Ger-

man government was studying Jordan's situation and appeal. "We are trying to get as much aid as possible for Jordan," Meyer said and indicated that "substantial" assistance could be forthcoming.

"Our connections with Jordan are very close and we want to help you with this problem," Meyer said. Jordan receives the largest amount of West German assistance in per capita terms.

Meyer said the Bonn government was conducting budget discussions and aid for Jordan is under consideration in the framework of the United Nations.

Jarrahneh said last week that there were "very good signs" that assistance to Jordan would be coming from the Japanese and West German governments as well as the EC. He did not give any figures.

Japan has allocated \$2 billion to Jordan, Turkey and Egypt to help them offset the economic losses resulting from the Gulf crisis and the imposition of mandatory United Nations sanctions against Iraq, but no specific figures or details have been announced yet.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is due to visit all the three countries as part of a Middle East tour next week and it is expected that formal announcements of the allocations would be made during his trip (see page 2).

Assad fails to get Iranian pledge not to send Iraq food

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad left Tehran after a four-day visit Tuesday, but sources said he failed to get an Iranian pledge not to send food and other essentials to Iraq.

Knowledgeable sources close to the Syrian delegation told the Associated Press Tehran reiterated its pledge to uphold embargo rules imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

But Iran insisted it is not breaking the sanctions because the embargo allows "humanitarian shipments" of food.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Iranians had promised not to buy embargoed Iraqi oil, or to help

Baghdad export its crude. An Iranian newspaper had said Assad carried an appeal from the United States against food shipments as well.

Assad failed to see eye-to-eye with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani on many issues, but those differences were not great enough to drive a wedge between Iran and its main Arab ally, the sources said.

The first indication that things were not going well for Assad came when he announced Sunday he was extending his stay, apparently for a last-ditch effort in trying to impress upon Rafsanjani the importance of withholding food shipments to Iraq.

Tehran Radio said Assad was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Rafsanjani.

Before flying out Assad said the

results of his talks had been "good and very effective."

He said his meetings with Rafsanjani had been "friendly, and I don't think anything relating to the region remained undisclosed."

Rafsanjani said "in our talks we did not reach any point of difference requiring a great deal of discussions."

The English-language Tehran Times said some of Rafsanjani's numerous discussions with Assad, conducted behind closed doors, had lasted several hours.

The report did not provide any details of those meetings.

Tehran Radio said the two countries signed an agreement to expand economic, trade, scientific and cultural ties, including the setting up of joint construction companies and cooperation between the central planning bodies.

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EC-Arab meeting in doubt

ROME (R) — A meeting planned next month between European Community (EC) foreign ministers and the Arab League looks increasingly in doubt as many Arab states threaten to stay away, according to diplomats.

Italian officials had long denied there was anything wrong with the Oct. 7-8 meeting in Venice until Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez let slip Monday that it might not take place at all.

"I am not sure the Venice meeting with the Arab League will take place," the Spanish minister told a news conference in Palma de Majorca after Italy and Spain jointly launched the idea of a Middle East security conference.

"The fact that Iraq has not been invited is making some Arabs reluctant to come," he said, without giving any details.

The Venice idea is the brainchild of Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis who per-

suaded his EC colleagues on Sept. 7 to endorse a document calling for a new Euro-Arab dialogue to overcome divisions provoked by the Gulf crisis.

The EC had hoped the Venice meeting would be attended at least by the 12 countries which condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait at an Arab League summit in Cairo on Aug. 10.

"The trouble is that there is a big difference between Arabs condemning Iraq at an Arab meeting on Arab soil and getting those states to turn up in Italy to form an anti-Iraq front with the European Community," an EC diplomat said.

The Arab League members that voted against Iraq in Cairo last month were: Saudi Arabia, the toppled government of Kuwait, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, Somalia, Djibouti, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Italian officials said de Michelis, who comes from Venice, was

determined to go ahead with the meeting however few Arab states attended. Both Ordonez and Italian officials declined to say which of the 12 were threatening to stay away.

But diplomats said if only a few agreed to attend, it would be difficult to call it an EC-Arab League meeting.

Among Arab states, only Syria and Egypt have so far endorsed the idea. Italian officials insist no Arab League member has so far refused the invitation and that there is still plenty of time for others to reply.

Italy appears to be placing its hopes of saving the meeting on de Michelis' personal diplomacy at this week's U.N. General Assembly in New York.

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Kaifu to visit Mideast next week

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will tour five Middle East countries affected by the Gulf crisis next week after meeting U.S. President George Bush in New York, the government announced Tuesday.

Kaifu, the first head of the group of seven industrialised countries to tour the Middle East since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, will visit Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Oman. He will discuss with their leaders how Japan can best help the region, the statement said.

Japan has pledged \$2 billion to Jordan and Turkey, among the hardest hit by the imposition of economic sanctions against Iraq. Japan has earmarked another \$2 billion for the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

Kaifu is to leave for New York Friday to attend a special United Nations summit on children Sept. 29-30. He is scheduled to meet with Bush Saturday.

He is due to arrive in Cairo Oct. 2 for a week-long trip in the Middle East. He is the first Japanese premier to tour the region since 1978. Japan imports about 70 per cent of its oil from the Middle East.

In addition to Japan, the Group of Seven includes the United States, Canada, England, France, West Germany and Italy. Japan, countering criticism that it was not adequately supporting U.N.-sanctioned action in the

Gulf, reiterated Monday its intention to provide as much as \$2 billion in aid to the region.

A spokesman for Foreign Minister Taro Makayama pointed out at a briefing on the opening day of general debate of the 45th session of the U.N. General Assembly that Japan has committed \$2 billion for multinational forces and \$2 billion additional for front-line states.

"We have already dispersed \$22 million for evacuee relief," said Makoto Yamanaoka, the spokesman.

On Sept. 18, a Japanese government spokesman said in Tokyo that officials were drafting legislation that would allow the government to sidestep a post-World War II constitutional ban on sending troops to international conflicts.

Yamanaoka said Japan was committed to "peace-restoring activities in the region."

He also said that talks with the Soviet Union over the small Kurile islands, occupied by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II, were continuing although, "they haven't made real, substantive progress yet."

The two nations have not signed a peace pact since World War II, primarily because of the dispute over the northern territories. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has agreed to come to Tokyo in 1991. "We are determined to continue this negotiation," said Yamanaoka.

Some Socialists want U.N. military action in Gulf

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Some Socialist parties seek a United Nations decision calling for military enforcement of its sanctions against Iraq, but others believe it is not yet necessary, Socialist International leaders say.

"We are looking for diplomatic solutions. We would welcome an Arab solution or a solution within the United Nations, which would avoid the military confrontation," said Luis Ayala of Chile, general secretary of Socialist International.

But, he said, some parties are willing to participate in a U.N.-established military force to make Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and to free foreign nationals.

"There are parties which would look for that U.N. decision," Ayala said, when pressed about whether the Socialists approve of the military action already taken by the United States and other Western nations to enforce the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

Conny Frederiksson, of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, commented that Sweden has for many years pushed for progress on a U.N. call for an international conference on the Palestinian problem "and no one has ever discussed military action in that respect."

Frederiksson said his party has not discussed whether it supports or opposes the action by some Western nations to enforce the U.N. resolutions against Iraq militarily. "But the presence of

large numbers of troops increases the risks," he said.

Nabeel Sha'ath, chairman of the Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a leader of Fateh presented the PLO's views on the Gulf crisis to members of the Socialist International.

The Socialist International Middle East Committee, meeting in Stockholm for one day to discuss the Gulf crisis, included two Israelis — Israel Gaf of the Israel Labour Party and Elazar Granot of the United Workers' Party. They were at the session with Sha'ath, Ayala said.

A 1986 amendment to Israel's law makes it illegal for Israelis to hold talks with members of the PLO and other groups declared as "terrorist" organisations. Conviction can bring a sentence of up to three years in jail.

But the law generally has been interpreted as prohibiting one-on-one meetings. Israelis who have had contacts with PLO leaders at international forums have not been prosecuted.

The Middle East Committee of Socialist International, the Association of Socialist and Social Democratic Parties, will make recommendations to the international executive. It will meet in New York Oct. 8-9 to issue a final statement on solutions to the Gulf crisis.

The Socialist International Party leaders, who met in Helsinki on Sept. 5, have already condemned Iraq's invasion called for it to abide by U.N. resolutions, and asked for aid to refugees and the neighbouring states suffering economic hardship because of compliance with the embargoes.

Iran-Iraq border virtually back to normal

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Five weeks after Baghdad announced it was withdrawing all its troops from territory it held in Iran, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar reported Monday that the withdrawal is almost complete.

Perez de Cuellar announced the finding in a report to the Security Council, in which he requested a two-month extension of the U.N.-Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIMOG) to complete verification of the withdrawal.

The group includes about 400 military observers sent to the border region when a ceasefire took effect in August 1988 to separate the warring Iranian and Iraqi armies.

Verifying the withdrawal of troops under a 1987 Security Council resolution was another part of the group's mission. Iraq last month said it was giving up all territory its troops

held when the truce took effect, in an attempt to neutralise Iran while it dealt with the build-up of the U.S.-led multinational force in Saudi Arabia.

"Iraq assured UNIMOG of its determination not to occupy any part of Iranian territory and Iraqi survey teams are currently verifying the entire length of the internationally recognised boundaries," said Perez de Cuellar.

Group officials have also asked Iran to withdraw its forces in some areas, and Iran "has also assured UNIMOG that it does not intend to occupy any Iraqi territory and Iranian survey teams also are currently verifying the entire length of the border," he said.

Neither army advanced significantly as the other withdrew, he said.

"The withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognised borders is almost complete," except for those pockets where the

group has advised the parties they may need to pull back.

Perez de Cuellar asked the Security Council for a two-month extension of the force, reduced to about 240 officers, to help complete the survey and withdrawal.

The group has cost about \$7 million per month to operate. It sent out about 68 patrols daily by jeep and car, boats, planes, helicopters and on foot to monitor the 1,100-kilometre front between Iraq and Iran.

In his report to the Security Council, the secretary-general said a few locations remained where, in UNIMOG's view, Iranian and Iraqi forces remained on the wrong side of the internationally recognised boundaries described in a 1975 treaty.

"In these circumstances, I believe that it would be prudent for the Security Council to extend the mandate of UNIMOG for a limited period, which I recom-

mend should be of two months, that is until Nov. 30, 1990," he said.

This would permit UNIMOG to complete its tasks and allow time for the parties and the Security Council to judge whether there was a continuing need for a third party to monitor the ceasefire on the internationally recognised boundaries.

Among UNIMOG's tasks would be to help Iran and Iraq establish an area of separation on either side of the border in which both would agree not to deploy military forces.

Perez de Cuellar said one side has already agreed to the idea of setting up such a demilitarised zone while the other was still studying it.

Since only about 60 per cent of UNIMOG's present strength would be needed, an immediate reduction could thus be made, assuming the council agreed to extend its mandate, he added.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Nyerere decries U.S. Gulf presence

DAR ES SALAAM (AP) — Former President Julius Nyerere has decried U.S. military presence in the Gulf and said it only benefited Washington, not Saudi Arabia or Kuwait. In a broadcast on state radio, Nyerere, a strong critic of Western economic policies, described the build-up in the oil-rich region as "a show of strength" by a superpower. "If Kuwait and Saudi Arabia sold bananas or oranges, the Americans would not go there," Nyerere said. "They are there militarily because Kuwait is an oil monarchy." "Nyerere said Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait provided the United States with an opportunity to strengthen "a power base" in the region. "The American presence in the Gulf benefits neither Kuwait nor Saudi Arabia," Nyerere said. Nyerere's stand differed with President Hassan Mtwinyi's public call for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops to end what he called "illegal occupation" of Kuwait. Last month, Nyerere voluntarily relinquished his last official post, the chairmanship of the sole political party in the East African nation, Chama Cha Mapinduzi. Nyerere is chairman of the Geneva-based South-North Commission, which seeks ways of increasing economic cooperation between rich and poor nations. The former president wields influence in Africa as an elder statesman.

Iraq will permit 141 Brazilians to leave

BRASILIA (R) — The Iraqi government told Brazil Monday that it would allow 141 Brazilians to leave, including 21 engineers involved in a secret military project, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry said. Ministry spokesman Fernando Barreto said the decision was relayed Monday to a Brazilian diplomatic mission in Iraq headed by Brazil's ambassador to London, Paulo Flecha de Lima. Another 128 Brazilians are awaiting permission to leave. The diplomatic mission will remain in Iraq until it obtains visas for the group and finalises travel arrangements on board a specially contracted Iraqi commercial plane. Barreto confirmed that among the Brazilians who received visas are 21 engineers working on a secret project to develop missiles. The majority of the Brazilians to be evacuated are employees of the construction company Mendes Junior, which was contracted by Iraq to work on a \$350 million irrigation project and a \$330 million road project.

U.S. forces may get Soviet equipment

BONN (R) — American troops in the Gulf may soon be using Soviet-made equipment no longer needed by East Germany's vanishing army, West Germany said Monday. Bonn, barred by its constitution from sending troops to the Gulf, has pledged instead to give the United States military equipment, about half of which will come from the East German army, government spokesman Hans Klein told a news conference. Some of the equipment from East Germany's dying army would probably be Soviet-made, he said. Klein said there were no plans at present to give the Americans weapons but the delivery might include protective equipment against nuclear, chemical or biological attack. When the two Germanys unite on Oct. 3, the East German People's Army (NVA) will cease to exist, leaving a united Germany with unneeded soldiers, arms and equipment. Earlier this month West Germany said it was giving 3.3 billion marks (\$2 billion) worth of aid for the American-led anti-Iraq operation. About half of this will be military equipment and of that 740 million marks worth (\$450 million) will come from the NVA, Klein said.

Poland to send medical support to Gulf

WARSAW (R) — Poland will support the multinational force in the Gulf with a field hospital and a medical ship, state television reported Monday. The government, apparently worried about the fate of more than 2,000 Poles still in Iraq and Kuwait, said in a statement that Polish doctors would "give aid to all sides of the conflict in accordance with the Hague Convention." No further details were given. Poland has joined the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq and says its struggling economy could suffer losses of nearly \$2.1 billion as a result.

6 killed, 9 wounded in Sudan air raid

NAIROBI (R) — At least six people were killed and nine wounded in an air raid on a rebel-held town in southern Sudan, relief sources said Tuesday. The raid on Monday, the third on the town of Bor in five days, was one of a series of bombings of towns held by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the sources said. The sources, who asked not to be identified, said Bor, about 180 kilometres north of the regional capital Juba, was also hit last Sunday and Thursday by a single Antonov plane. Other SPLA-held towns hit over the past week were Yirol, Ler and Akon, all on the West Bank of the Nile north of Juba, the sources said. They had no details of casualties in those raids. One source said he feared continued attacks could jeopardise flights by aid organisations carrying relief supplies around the south, where the civil war and successive droughts have made several million people dependent on aid.

Shi'ite groups clash in South Lebanon

SIDON (AP) — Rival Shi'ite groups backed by Syria and Iran battled with howitzers and mortars in South Lebanon, killing at least three people and wounding 12, police said Tuesday. They said the clashes broke out at 3:30 p.m. Monday and tapered down shortly after midnight Tuesday between the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah on the northwestern edge of Iqim Al Toutha. The thuds of exploding shells echoed across the region and could be heard in this provincial capital, 40 kilometres south of Beirut. Amal, backed by guerrillas of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, accused Hizbollah fighters of shelling its positions in Kfar Hattat. Kfar Hattat is eight kilometres southeast of Sidon. A police spokesman said no change in the position of either militia was reported.

Mulroney praises Bush's leadership

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney praised U.S. President George Bush Monday for providing strong leadership "that has helped forge an international alliance against Iraq. Mulroney told parliament that Bush has played a key role in building a consensus in the United Nations to stand firm against Iraq. "Canada welcomes the crucial and skilled role played by President Bush of the United States in building this international consensus," he said. "The world is fortunate that the United States has both the political will and the military capacity to back up this leadership," he added. Canada has contributed three warships and a squadron of jet fighters to the international force in the Gulf. But the decision to send the Canadian military was made while parliament was in recess and there has been criticism that Canada's reputation as an international peacekeeper has been jeopardised by the deployment. Mulroney, in a special address to the House of Commons, said there was no honour in claiming neutrality in the face of flagrant violations of international law. "When called upon to play its part in collective efforts in the past, to roll back aggression and defend freedom, Canada has never shirked its responsibilities," he said.

Refugees swell at Turkish border

HABUR, Turkey (R) — The flow of refugees to Turkey from Iraq has increased with nearly 4,000 people streaming across the Habur Border bridge in the past 24 hours, police said Tuesday. Police said the latest influx — 3,871 — compared with only a handful of border crossings at the end of last week. The latest arrivals included 3,439 Pakistanis in cars and 257 Bangladeshis on foot. Other nationalities included Afghans, Filipinos, Indians and Sri Lankans, as well as 45 Yugoslavs who had worked in Iraq for Turkey's Enka construction company. Western relief officials in Ankara, 1,100 kilometres northwest of Habur, said up to 50,000 refugees from the Gulf crisis could be waiting in sweltering heat to enter Turkey. "There are about 4,200 Pakistanis in cars waiting on the other side as well as an unknown number of others, mainly Bangladeshis, on foot," one official said. Refugee Khalaf, 34, who worked as a teller in the National Bank of Kuwait said: "There are nearly 10,000 Pakistanis left in Kuwait. They may come to Turkey, too."

Colombo to probe report Mossad trained both sides

COLOMBO (AP) — The government says it will investigate allegations that Israel simultaneously trained its security forces and the Tamil guerrillas they were fighting.

A statement from President Ranasinghe Premadasa's office said Monday the probe was ordered following publication last week of a book by a former member of the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad.

The book, "By Way of Deception: The Making and Unmaking of a Mossad Officer," by Victor Ostrovsky, also claimed the Israeli instructed the Sri Lankan government how to conceal purchases of Israeli military equipment by diverting funds from a development project.

"The government has directed that all allegations made in the book be fully investigated," said the presidential statement, after a report on the book appeared in the government-owned Sunday Observer.

It did not elaborate on the investigation.

The Israeli government has claimed the book is a baseless lie.

The book claims government troops and Tamil rebels underwent training at the same time at two different camps in the same Israeli base. Ostrovsky was one of the Mossad agents training

Tamil guerrillas, the report said.

Tamils, claiming discrimination by the Sinhalese-dominated government, launched a separatist campaign in 1983 for a Tamil homeland in the north and east of this Indian Ocean island off India's southern coast. Tamilans comprise 18 per cent of the population of 16 million people.

The book claimed that Mossad agents trained the Tamils to sabotage the Dvora-class patrol boats which Israel had sold to the Sri Lankan navy.

The Mossad also reportedly sent two experts to guide officials in arms procurement by diverting funds from the \$2-billion Mahaweli River project, partially funded by the World Bank and foreign investors.

Israeli agents allegedly taught the officials how to fool World Bank representatives making periodic visits to inspect the project's progress, the report said.

Sri Lanka broke off relations with Israel in 1967 following the Arab-Israeli war.

But former President Junius R. Jayewardene credited Israel several years ago with offering help when the government was being threatened by well-armed Tamil separatists.

"I am willing to shake hands with Satan himself, if it will help to crush Tamil terrorism," Jayewardene said at the time.

Company denies delivering new type of bomb to Iraq

BONN (AP) — The Economics Ministry said Monday it was checking a published report that a major West German arms manufacturer delivered a powerful new bomb to Iraq.

The newsmagazine Der Spiegel reported in its latest issue that the Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB) company delivered a bomb to Iraq whose shock wave is comparable to the power released by a small atomic bomb. It said the bomb was delivered to Iraq via Egypt.

The company Monday denied the report.

A spokeswoman for the Bonn Economics Ministry said ministry officials were checking the Spiegel report, but added that so far there had been no reason to suspect the company had been involved in illegal arms deliveries.

The spokeswoman, who asked that her name not be used, said however that prosecutors had opened a probe against another company suspected of illegally providing technology to Egypt. She declined to name the company.

MBB, in a statement issued at its Bavarian headquarters in Ottobrunn, said it conducted a study for the warhead of a so-called "fuel air explosive pro-

ject," the name of the bomb as reported by Spiegel.

It said, however, that the project was abandoned in 1988.

MBB also denied that any documents or products had been delivered to Egypt by Consen/PBG, a company that carries out projects for MBB. West German television said Consen was the target of the prosecutors' probe.

"MBB is not involved in production of atomic, biological or chemical weapons," the company statement said.

The firm said it had stopped all dealing with Iraq since the United Nations imposed a trade embargo against Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2.

MBB confirmed, however, that Spiegel's report that said the French company Euromissile, owned 50 per cent by MBB, delivered guided missiles to Iraq. Spiegel said Euromissile delivered more than 10,000 Milan, Hot and Roland missiles to Iraq.

The deliveries were made under a state treaty between France and Iraq, MBB said.

The company also denied that it had supplied combat helicopters to Iraq. But it said the Spanish company Casa had won a manufacturing and export licence from MBB for BO105 helicopters and sold them legally to Iraq.

Iraq lifts restrictions on Bangladesh diplomats

DHAKA (R) — Iraq Tuesday lifted travel restrictions on Bangladeshi diplomats who fled to Baghdad from Kuwait, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

"Iraqi authorities have agreed to issue exit permits to our Kuwait Ambassador K.M. Shahabuddin Ahmad and four other diplomats stranded in Baghdad since Sept. 11," spokesman Mustafizur Rahman told reporters.

"We hope everything will go smoothly and the diplomats will get back home within a week."

Iraq restricted the movement of the five within Baghdad and refused them permission to leave because Bangladesh did not comply with a directive to close its Kuwait embassy by Aug. 24.

Baghdad was angered by Bangladesh's decision to send up to 5,000 troops to Saudi Arabia to join to multinational force.

"After initial setback we have succeeded... and we are very happy about it," Rahman said. He said Monday Dhaka might retaliate unless Iraq softened its attitude towards Bangladesh, which was a close friend until the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

More than 46,000 Bangladeshis who worked in Kuwait had returned home by Tuesday and about 10,000 others were expected back by the end of this month.

Rahman said many Bangladeshis in Kuwait might stay, hoping for normality to return.

FURNISHED ROOF FOR RENT

Shmersani, opposite the bridge.

Tel. 661293

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:30 Local programme
18:35 News in Arabic
21:30 Arabic series
21:35 Arabic programme
22:00 News in Arabic
22:40 Play

PROGRAMME TWO
18:05 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Classical Music
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
21:10 Documentary: "Economic Perspective"

22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Dead Man Out"

PRAYER TIMES

05:56 Fajr
06:27 (Sunrise) Duha
12:27 Dhuhr
15:54 'Asr
18:23 Maghrib
19:50 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 652705
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 625453.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 649522.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and winds will be northerly moderate to fresh. In Amman, it will be dusty and winds will be northerly moderate.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN	Mis./max. temp.	ZARQA
Amman	13 / 26	Dr. Waleed Halaish
Amman	20 / 33	Khalaf pharmacy
Deir	14 / 32	
Jordan Valley	21 / 32	
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 27, Zarqa 33, Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Zarqa 30 per cent.		
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS		
NIGHT DUTY		
AMMAN:		
Dr. Mahmoud Al Sheikh	663087	
Dr. Mohamed Al Sawa	732056	
Dr. Isam Ba'aki	679666	
Dr. Subhi Tannous	898903	
Firas Pharmacy	661912	
Ferdous pharmacy	778336	
Al Ascar pharmacy	637055	
Nawab pharmacy	625672	
Al Salem pharmacy	636732	
Yacoub pharmacy	644945	
Shameel pharmacy	637660	
IRBID:		
Dr. Mosa Barqawi	(—)	
Al Shams pharmacy	(983398)	
Civil Defence Department	661111	
Civil Defence Emergency	630341	
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade	891228	
Blood Bank	775121	
Highway Police	843402	
Traffic Police	896390	
Public Security Department	630321	
Hotel Complaints	605800	
Price Complaints	661176	
Water and Sewerage	897467	
Complaints	787111	
Amman Municipality	661111	
Complaints	787111	
Telephone Information	121	
(Directory assistance)	010230	
Overseas Calls	623101	
Repairs	623101	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101	
Jordan Television	771111	
Radio Jordan	774111	
Water Authority	660100	
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615	
Electric Power		

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:00 Laraca (CY)
18:00 Jeddah (SV)
18:00 Baghdad (LH)
18:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (TY)
18:30 Cairo (MS)
18:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TC)
18:30 Frankfurt (LH)
18:30 Damascus (PK)
22:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Laraca (RJ)
10:00 Baghdad (LH)
10:00 Sana'a, Jeddah (TY)
10:00 Cairo (MS)
10:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TC)
10:00 Frankfurt (LH)
10:00 Damascus (PK)
10:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:35 Laraca (CY)
08:35 Jeddah (SV)
08:35 Baghdad (LH)
08:35 Sana'a, Jeddah (TY)
08:35 Cairo (MS)
08:35 Ankara, Istanbul (TC)
08:35 Frankfurt (LH)
08:35 Damascus (PK)
08:35 Paris, Damascus (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600 / 420
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukammal) 450 / 400
Cabbage 360 / 300
Carrot 1

Arar leaves for Tripoli

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar left Amman for Tripoli Tuesday saying he was carrying a message from his Majesty King Hussein to Libyan leader Muammar Al Qadhafi.

Arar, who is leading a parliamentary delegation on the visit to Libya, said that the talks with Libyan leaders and parliament members would deal with the general situation in the Middle East and cooperation among Arab parliamentarians, to convene at a meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which was called for by the state of Palestine.

"Discussions in Tripoli will deal with the Gulf crisis and the presence of foreign forces in the region," Arar said in his departure statement. During the five-day visit, he added, the delegation's talks with Libyan officials and members would focus on the need to solve the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework, something which Jordan has been calling for.

Accompanying Arar on the Libyan visit are parliament members Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Mohammad Alawneh, Fakhri Kawa, Mohammad Al Dardour and Khaled Al Samhour.

EC helps airlift Indians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) has stepped in to help the evacuation of Asians from Iraq and Kuwait through Jordan by signing an agreement with the government of India to airlift 12,000 Indians from Amman to Bombay, officials said.

The EC has chartered Air India aircraft for the purpose, they said. The arrangement started Monday when 871 Indians were flown home aboard Air India flights paid for the EC. Another 10 flights were scheduled to leave Tuesday carrying about 2,500 Indians.

As of Monday, a total of 71,761 Indians were repatriated aboard Air India flights, which started Aug. 14, and another 5,480 were flown home by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), according to the Indian embassy here.

The total number is made up by Indians flying in from Baghdad to take homeward flights aboard Air India on the same day.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zura displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun - a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.

Israel steps up arbitrary actions against Palestinians — Qatanani

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel has stepped up arbitrary actions against the Palestinians population, taking advantage of the fact that the world community's eyes are turned towards the developments in the Gulf area, said Ahmad Qatanani, director of the Department for Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

Referring to the situation in the Gaza Strip, where scores of people have been detained and homes have been demolished in retaliation for the death of a soldier who had run down two children, Qatanani said that the Israelis were increasing their atrocities to intimidate the local population and force them to leave their homeland to make way for Soviet Jewish immigrants.

"What the Israelis are doing is not strange or surprising since

they have been keeping up such inhuman practices over the past two decades and especially during the ongoing intifada," Qatanani said.

He said that the U.N. Security Council and the international community should intervene and immediately put an end to such atrocities and criminal actions.

Israel had announced it would demolish homes and shops to punish the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip where the soldier was killed. It said it was considering the expulsion of Palestinians suspected of involvement in the killing.

The soldier was killed Thursday in the Bureij refugee camp after his car hit a donkey cart, injuring two Palestinian teenagers. The Palestinian mob stoned him then set fire to his car with his body inside.

Commenting on the situation in the Gaza Strip, Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim said that the atrocities exposed to the whole world the nature of the Zionist settlers and also exposed the double standards of the United States which "rushed to the Gulf allegedly in implementation of the Security Council resolutions and condoned Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab land."

Israel's actions are in flagrant violation of all principles and international laws, but the United States chooses to ignore this fact and continues to encourage Israel's actions by providing it with the material, political and military means," the ambassador said.

He said the Palestinian people's struggle could never stop until occupation ended.

20 pensioners laid off to cut on expenses

Zarqa municipality has reorganisational plans

ZARQA (J.T.) — A total of 20 workers employed by Zarqa Municipality have been laid off and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Karim Al Dughni told the municipality that he supported the action taken in the course of implementing reform programmes and cutting on expenses.

The 20 workers are pensioners and already receive pension from earlier employments, from the municipality they were receiving a total of JD 28,000 in salaries annually, though many of them did little work, according to mayor Yaser Al Omari.

Speaking at a meeting attended by the minister and municipal council members Omari said that the dismissals were made in the course of a comprehensive plan to introduce reform and cut down on extra expenses in implementation of

directives by the government. During the meeting, which discussed the workers' issue, Omari made it clear that among the municipality's employees there are 63 who are above 60 years of age, in violation of regulations.

"Since the election of the municipal council, over four months ago, strenuous efforts have been made to improve the quality of municipal services and reduce expenses," Omari said. "The municipality has a large staff of workers who do little work and are in excess of the municipality's needs," Omari added.

"The decision to lay off workers is in harmony with the government's recent directives which call for not employing pensioners in government departments or other public institutions and municipalities," Omari pointed

out. He said that if the municipality needed more workers, they would be chosen from the unemployed people and not pensioners so as to contribute to solving the unemployment problem in Jordan.

To support his views Omari said that the municipal library, which consists of two rooms and a reading hall, employs 27 people, but the council plans to reorganise work and put things right.

After reviewing the situation with the council, the minister said that the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs supported Zarqa municipality's reorganisational plan aimed at cutting down on expenses so that sufficient funds could be made available for improving the municipal services in the city.

Life-term convict freed by royal pardon

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian serving three life sentences for a plot against the life of His Majesty King Hussein was released three days ago after a royal pardon was granted by His Majesty King Hussein.

Breik Al Hadid, who was a prominent member of the now banned "Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party," was released Sunday after serving 13 years of his sentences in prison.

Although no official statement was made as to why his release came now, observers believe that the King, who has had a long tradition of pardoning former political foes, was also influenced by the increasingly democratic atmosphere in Jordan as well as attempts by political activists and

some members of the Lower House of Parliament to obtain his release.

Hadid, who is now in his early fifties, had received a death sentence after Jordanian courts found him guilty of plotting to fire a missile to kill the King in 1977. The sentence was commuted to three life sentences with hard labour by royal decree.

While testifying during trial by martial court in 1977, Hadid said that Libya had instigated him to the assassination bid. Jordan severed diplomatic relations with Libya in 1984, but diplomatic relations were reestablished this year.

Hadid, who worked as a school principle in the Gweishmeir district in Amman, was one of the leaders of what is considered an extreme left wing-group founded in 1972 by two ardent pan-Arabists, the late Wadi Haddad and

Mohammad Abu Issa (who is serving a prison sentence in Syria). The group broke away from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the second largest faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in 1972.

Although observers question the leaning, the group uncompromising stand on issues of pan-Arab interests have put it on the political map of the Arab World where it is considered to be on the far left of the political spectrum.

Hadid belongs to one of Jordan's most prominent tribes who have a long history of allegiance to the Hashemite monarchy. The family, who has a representative in the Lower House of Parliament, Nayef Al Hadid, has frequently appealed for amnesty for Breik.

Iraq to study offer of European peace activists

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq will consider a request by European peace activists who have volunteered themselves to replace sick Western nationals held in Iraq, according to members of a European peace mission which concluded a visit to Baghdad and Amman Tuesday.

Dennis Summat, a Maltese member of parliament and head of the mission, told a press conference here that 200 European peace activists have already volunteered to substitute for the sick Europeans held in Iraq.

The idea, however, was opposed by the British members of the mission who demanded an immediate release of all Western nationals. But Summat said that the idea was supported by the other nine members of the delegation, which include parliamentarians, academics, and trade unionists from Spain, Malta and Italy.

Father Dionysius Mintoof, a prominent Maltese peace activist, said he was ready to replace a sick European national even though there were no Maltese citizens held in Iraq.

The mission members said that they handed an appeal to the speaker of the Iraqi parliament to be conveyed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"We sensed that they left the door slightly open for special cases such as the elderly or sick," said Dennis Canavan, one of three British members of parliament from the opposition Labour Party.

The three British MPs said that they condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but they had voted against the British government policy in the Gulf.

"The massive military buildup could in fact be counter-productive to the case of peace," said Canavan.

The peace mission members said that despite the Iraqi headline they still felt that there was chance for peace.

The British delegates said that they saw 100 British nationals held in hotels in Baghdad. They said that some of them were seriously sick and they should be allowed to leave immediately.

The Italian delegates said that the Iraqis had turned down an offer to exchange Italian nationals for food supplies and medicine. They said the Iraqis told them that the decision to keep Western nationals was by far more complicated and serious than such an arrangement.

During their stay in Jordan the peace mission met with Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Moutassem Bileisi and a number of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials representing various groups.

Celebrations to mark Prophet's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has prepared celebrations for Monday, Sept. 1, 1990, marking Prophet Mohammad's birthday.

According to a statement here, a major religious celebration will be held at the King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Mosque in Abdali where Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Fajir as well as the Kingdom's mufti and other prominent religious leaders will address the worshippers.

Following the celebration, which will be held under Royal patronage, procession of 400 scouts from the Ministry of Education schools will march along the streets of the capital gathering at Al Hashemieh square where minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammo, who heads a committee in charge of the celebrations will address them.

Jammor and senior officials from the Ministry of Awqaf held

a meeting earlier Tuesday during which they reviewed a programme of religious ceremonies to be held in various regions of Jordan.

The committee said that several symposia will be held and all liquor stores, nightclubs and bars will be closed from Sunday evening till Tuesday morning. The first period at schools around the country on Sunday will be dedicated to discussing the life and works of the Prophet.

According to a statement, the committee received a contribution from the Amman Chamber of Commerce totalling JD2,000 to help finance the celebrations on this occasion. In addition the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced that it would distribute food and in-kind assistance to the needy families.

Celebrations to be held on the anniversary at mosques, will be followed by tree planting ceremonies and opening of Islamic book exhibitions.

Japanese premier to visit on Oct. 3

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is due to visit Jordan on Oct. 3 and 4, the first ever by a Japanese prime minister to the Kingdom.

During his stay Kaifu will have talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other Jordanian officials.

The talks will focus on the present situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

The visit will be part of Kaifu's trip to the Middle East which will take him to Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Oman in addition to Jordan.

Kaifu's visit to the region had been originally planned to take place in the middle of August, but was postponed due to the situation in the Gulf region.

According to a press release from the Japanese Embassy here, the visit is a clear indication of Japan's sincere interest in the well-being of the Middle East region and in its peace and stability.

Kaifu desires to contribute to the quest for peace in this region through personal exchanges with the leaders of each country he plans to visit, the statement said.



Toshiki Kaifu

The statement said that the visit was a good opportunity to establish meaningful relations with each country as the world moves towards the 21st century.

It said that Japan hoped to clearly demonstrate to the countries of the region that it was making sincere efforts to find a fair solution to restoring peace and stability in the region, based on fully carrying out U.N. Security Council resolutions, taking into consideration the changes brought about by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

UNICEF relief supplies arrive

AMMAN (J.T.) — Continuing its support for the emergency relief operation in Jordan for evacuees in transit from Kuwait and Iraq, UNICEF flew in Tuesday 42 tonnes of drugs and medical supplies worth \$348,000. The UNICEF special charter will also complete delivery of 5,000 blankets, and 2,000 cooking sets, the bulk of which arrived from Copenhagen four days ago.

Tuesday's shipment, which arrived at Queen Alia International Airport, was handed to the Expatriate Relief Committee.

In the last few days, UNICEF purchased or placed on order

from local Jordanian suppliers, a further 10,000 mattresses, 200 buckets, rakes, shovels and brooms, 10 tonnes of quicklime (to disinfect latrines at evacuee camps), 2 tonnes of detergents, 50,000 bars of soap and other items for personal hygiene.

In the last ten days, UNICEF engineers, specialised in evacuee site management, have been working with national authorities, site managers and other agencies to upgrade sites to cope with winter and rain conditions. Work has already been initiated to improve water and sanitation facilities at Andalus.

Fund created for industrial development

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day symposium on local industry and Jordan's food security strategy ended here Tuesday with the participants calling for the establishment of a special fund to finance scientific research and development in cooperation between various research centres in Jordan and Iraq.

The meeting, attended by businessmen, industrialists and concerned people from the public and the private sectors, called on Jordan to give more attention to self-dependence in all fields to allow the country to confront the challenges imposed on its industry by the Gulf crisis.

The participants called for the

formation of special committees to study the development of Jordanian food processing industry, to study the manufacture of spare parts for industry and agricultural machinery, and to find alternate materials, including herbs, to be used in the pharmaceutical industry.

They also called for coordina-

tion between committees, entrusted with following up on the usage of solar energy, to introduce national programmes designed to ration energy consumption in industrial businesses and to study the prospect of boosting agricultural production in cooperation with the industries of agriculture and supply to ensure

food security.

Several working papers were discussed at the meeting which were organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) in cooperation with the University of Jordan, the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives British delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received members of the visiting British Royal College of Defence Studies. The King briefed them on the situation in the Gulf and on Jordan's efforts to contain the crisis. The audience was attended by the Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb.

King congratulates Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, congratulating him on the 28th anniversary of the 26th September Revolution Day. The King wished the Yemeni president continued good health and happiness and the Yemeni people further progress and prosperity under his leadership.

Princess Alia visits stamps museum

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, the honorary president of the Jordanian Stamp Collectors Club, Tuesday visited the Jordanian Stamps Museum at the Post and Postal Savings Corporation, where she was received by Transport and Telecommunications Minister Nabil Abul Huda and Director General of the Corporation Abdullah Al Jazi. Princess Alia reviewed all commemorative stamps, totalling 284 collections, issued since the foundation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Abu Taleb attends graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Tuesday attended a People's Army graduation ceremony at the University of Jordan. The ceremony was also attended by senior army officers, university professors and students.

186,029 evacuees airlifted aboard 780 flights since Aug. 18

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of Queen Alia International Airport Ahmad Juweiber Tuesday said that a total of 186,029 evacuees have so far been airlifted aboard 780 non-scheduled flights.

Juweiber said that in addition to the ordinary and non-scheduled flights, which usually carry between 6,000 and 7,000 people every day, the airport also received since Aug. 18 a total of 11 aircraft belonging to different companies, carrying 4,300 tonnes of relief supplies.

Juweiber said that the great pressure on the airport has led to financial losses resulting from the wear and tear of furniture, increased expenditure on water and electricity, extended working hours of the airport cadres, and increasing their numbers.

Juweiber pointed out that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) was working now on an integrated terminal with all facilities. The new 4,000 square metre terminal, located near the airport building, will be used as a reception centre for evacuees waiting to take a flight home, or for those expected to arrive from Iraq and Kuwait. They will be picked up

from the terminal to the planes directly, thus avoiding congestion inside the airport lobbies and corridors.

On Monday a total of 7,494 evacuees left home aboard 35 non-scheduled flights, CAA sources said Tuesday.

In the meantime, some 12,586 evacuees arrived in Jordan Monday through various border points, including 1,838 Jordanians, 5,708 non-Jordanian Arabs and 4,985 foreigners. The total number of those departing the country Monday was 14,248, including 3,061 Jordanians, 5,687 non-Jordanian Arabs and 5,500 foreigners.

The number of evacuees arriving in Jordan through Ruweished border post totalled 8,001, while

the number of those crossing from Ruweished into the Iraqi territories totalled 1,419.

The Jordanian National Red Crescent Society said a total of 22,920 evacuees were now living in the two Azraq camps, set up by the JNRCS in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The camps residents are of various nationalities, including Pakistanis, Filipinos, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis, Thais.

JNRCS sources said Tuesday that the society's medical team had treated 1,953 cases, had referred 23 cases to the field hospital in Azraq camp, and one case to Zarqa hospital.

Jordan restores telephone links with Iran

AMMAN (R) — Jordan has restored telex and telephone lines with Iran after a 10-year break, a government official said Tuesday. Telecommunications Ministry Secretary-General Mohammad Smadi said the lines were re-opened Sunday. Diplomats said the move reflected the two countries' interest in improving ties and paving the way for a restoration of diplomatic relations cut after the 1979 revolution. A Jordanian parliamentary delegation visited Iran last month to discuss a peaceful end to the Gulf crisis.

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Jordan Times

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Has Saudi Arabia lost its cool?

WHILE Jordan continues its political moves on the Arab and international levels to defuse the Gulf crisis and prevent a military confrontation in the region, the country and its leadership are being taken back by some "revolutionary" Saudi decisions: Halting oil supplies to the Kingdom and expelling Jordanian diplomats.

Adding insult to injury, our Saudi brothers have come up with ridiculous reasons for their behaviour. They have accused Jordanian diplomats of spying and described a 6-hour notice to cut oil supplies as a "commercial" decision by the Tipline oil company.

Jordanians cannot but be perplexed by these Saudi actions. We have always believed Saudi diplomacy to be reasonable and balanced. But we do not understand why the Saudis are behaving the way they are this time around. For why should Jordan spy on Saudi Arabia and for whom? And why should Jordan be given a 6-hour notice to repay a \$46 million debt, while Jordan has depended on Saudi "generosity" for a long time? We are deeply convinced that these actions are politically motivated and are forced on our Saudi brothers, but not by us nor by our policies. Jordanians feel strongly that the Saudis have lost their will in taking those hostile stands, not only against Jordan but also against other Arab countries that oppose foreign intervention in the Gulf.

Be that as it may, Jordan will not give in and will continue to advocate its beliefs that what is going on in the Arabian peninsula and around it is extremely dangerous, particularly to Saudi interests and the Arab people at large. If unchecked, what is happening in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, namely foreign intervention, is going to lead to the destruction of Arab lands and Arab resources, and to the misery of all Arabs.

Jordanian diplomacy has always striven to keep its balance and to make our positions and beliefs clear. Patience, however, has its limits. Jordan has a lot to say and do to counter allegations and provocations. But Jordan hopes reason will prevail.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY cutting off oil supplies to Jordan and by accusing Jordanian diplomats of espionage, the Saudi Arabian government has thus decided to wage war on the Palestinian and Jordanian people, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. Had the war been directed at us to serve Saudi Arabian goals, we would have accepted the situation, but to see that such war is being waged on us to serve the Arab nation's enemies' interests, is something which we consider of grave danger, the paper noted. It said that when Saudi Arabia's foreign minister threatened to starve Jordan during a meeting in Cairo, we had thought that the minister had said that in a moment of anger, and when we heard Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States insulting Jordan, we thought that the ambassador's inexperience in diplomatic affairs was to blame, the paper said. But, it added, to cut off oil supplies and to accuse Jordanian diplomats of spying is something which is tantamount to a declaration of war, since the oil used to drive our tanks and armoured cars which guard the longest confrontation line with the Israeli enemy and are being deployed to help the Palestinians regain their rights in their homelands. The paper said that the Saudis are wrong to think that by such actions they can starve the Jordanian people or force them to kneel and succumb to the will of Riyadh or Washington. All provocative actions on the part of Saudi Arabia, said the paper, can only enhance Jordan's steadfastness and can by no means force this country to accept humiliation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the shortcomings of health authorities in the Kingdom specially after dissolution of the National Health Institution (NHI). Nazli says that following the recent decision to cancel NHI Jordanians expected the return of hospitals to the Health Ministry and the Al Hussein Medical Centre to the military, but the slow process of handover has been causing suffering to the public. The writer says that administrative processes should never be allowed to create obstacles in the path of medical and health departments and hospitals which ought to give their prime attention to the needs of the public. The writer urges the government to intervene and see to it that the process of handover of administrative duties does not interfere with the process of providing medical service. He says that hospitals have been reported facing difficulties due to administrative changes, reflecting negatively on the public.

Saddam Hussein's announcement that his country was willing to offer the required guarantees for Saudi Arabia's security automatically removed the pretext under which Washington found justification for sending in troops to the Gulf, said Al Dustour daily. The Americans went to the Gulf under the pretext that they want to protect Saudi Arabia from an alleged Iraqi invasion, but it is now revealed that the U.S. forces had been on their way and close to Saudi Arabia before Iraq's take over of Kuwait on Aug. 2, the paper noted. It said that the Americans succeeded, through their various media campaigns and direct approach, in painting Iraq as a monster wishing to swallow up the Saudis; and so they paved the way for their occupation of the Arabian Peninsula. Saddam Hussein's readiness to guarantee the sovereignty of Saudi Arabia, said the paper, should give an impetus to the Saudi government and other states in the Gulf to re-consider their decision of allowing foreign forces on their land.

Econo-Political Forum

American zeal for 242 and guided missiles for 660

In the press conference held by George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev after the Helsinki summit, Bush was asked why the superpowers were not pursuing UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli dispute. His answer was that the United States had been trying zealously to implement them for many years.

This is exactly the crux of the problem, Mr. President! The irony is that all the US has had for the displaced Palestinian people is some years of zeal, say five, to implement the resolution calling for the pullout of Israeli occupation forces from Palestinian land plus 18 years of complete negligence and forgetfulness (not to men-

tion the 1974 Resolutions, in which case we will be talking about almost half a century of American negligence).

But when Mr. Bush came to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, he could not afford to wait for more than a few minutes to call for the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi forces. And he had much more than zeal this time. A few days later he was sending an armada of American aircraft carriers, bombers, warships, guided missiles and tens of thousands of troops to see to it that resolution 660 be implemented by hook or crook. And the American president is still doing

more of that. The whole world can see what he has been doing to enforce resolution 660 and can easily predict what lengths he is prepared to go to in order to get that resolution implemented, not short of massive destructive war, of course. The very simple question put now to Bush-style United States by displaced Palestinian children and jailed youth as well as aging grandmothers who were in their youth in 1948 is: what have you done and what are you going to do, Mr. Bush, to get resolution 242 implemented whether next month, next year, next decade or even next century?

Somebody somewhere should remind Mr. Bush that

he does not need to go to war to prove that US is a superpower or the only superpower, nor to prove that it can defeat, militarily, a Third World country like Iraq. He does not go to "war" with Israel to convince Yitzhak Shamir to pull-out because the American financial leverage can do the necessary convincing. And here is the ridicule: Mr. Bush wants to go as far as waging war to enforce a UN Security Council resolution (660) but refrains from applying financial pressure to impose another (242), and forget about the alleged zeal. Looks much of a puzzle? Certainly not, because enforcement of resolution 660 wins him votes while that of

resolution 242 costs him some. Plausibly, this is what really matters most in Bush's calculations irrespective of the resounding zeal, rhetoric or international law, not to mention either democracy or dictatorship pretenses.

Right from the very beginning, I maintained in this space that oil was not the real motive which molded the present American policy in the Gulf. The fact that the Americans have passed to ask themselves questions about their objectives in this area lends credence to this viewpoint. Even if that were true at a certain point, the American stand has gone too far beyond that

ostensible goal, and the American game of power politics has created a situation dangerous to their oil interests. The oil price is climbing, is about to hit historical record levels and is showing all signs of being poised to keep on rising whether war erupts or the present deadlock continues. The present and future dangers inherent in this rise to world and regional economies and thereby to world peace and stability are enormous. If Mr. Bush affords now to pay, or arranges to pay, for the present costs of military confrontation and its side effects, the future costs will be so high as to be beyond the paying capacities of the US and its allies.

Iran's regional strength is back in the cards

By Eric Hall
Reuter

DUBAI — Television pictures of a Soviet-made Mig-29 fighter rolling out of an Iranian aircraft hangar on Saturday are a sign that the Gulf crisis has set the stage for a resurgence of Tehran's regional power.

Iranian and Western political analysts say consensus is growing in Western capitals and Moscow that the biggest nation in the Gulf will have to be included in any long-term security structure.

Iran has condemned U.S. talk about post-crisis "security arrangements" in the Gulf, seeing them as a mask for continued presence of foreign forces to guarantee the West's access to cheap oil.

A strictly local security pact would be another matter in Iranian eyes.

But it would have to bridge the historic enmity between Iranians and Arabs. The effect on oil policy might be the opposite of what the West is looking for.

"It will take a long time to sort out all the problems attached to this, but that is exactly what Iran wants, and what it is working toward," said an Iranian political

source close to senior parliamentarians from Tehran.

Western diplomats in the Gulf say Moscow, with the agreement of Britain, now seems to be gradually persuading Washington that a joint Arab-Iranian security framework offered the best long-term prospect for a stable Gulf.

The diplomats said Britain tested the waters when junior Foreign Office Minister William Wedderburn was quoted by an Arabic newspaper on Sept. 19 as saying that Iran should join an eventual Gulf security alliance under the Arab league, and Western forces would then pull out.

The British later denied the wording of the report but the diplomats said they believed the message stood, and Iranian political sources said it created intense interest in Tehran.

In the past two weeks, President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has pressed the case to launch Iran back into its traditional role of regional power, repeatedly offering to join a local security structure to ensure Gulf peace.

On Sunday, he told his visiting Syrian ally President Hafez Al Assad that Tehran wanted to set

up a regional security structure, and denounced the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf in response to Iraq's seizure of Kuwait.

Iranian Spiritual Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei caused fright in the West on Sept. 12 when he said fighting U.S. encroachment on the Gulf could be counted as a holy war.

Analysts say fierce Iranian criticism of the U.S. presence should not be seen as automatic support for Iraq.

"Iran is not Iraq's friend and in the same way does not see that the U.S. has become its friend overnight. Their greatest fear is that the U.S. will set up long-term bases in the Gulf," said a European-based Iranian political analyst.

"Iran already thinks that talking tough has got the U.S. to modify its previous stated policies about staying on in the Gulf for a long time."

Iran's 55 million people outnumber the combined population of all the Gulf Arab states including Iraq.

In the 1960s and 70s the United States armed Iran as a frontier guard on the Soviet Union's southern flank and a counter-

weight to leftism and Arab nationalism.

The Shah's troops, crossing the Iranian-Arab divide, helped the conservative sultanate of Oman defeat anti-Western guerrillas in the 70s.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic Revolution then led Iran into a decade of antagonism with both superpowers and most of its neighbours. It spent eight years in a ruinous war with Iraq.

Iran became "more peripheral to world politics that at any time, since before the Second World War," said the Iranian analyst.

But Iraq's takeover of Kuwait transformed Baghdad in the eyes of the West from a bulwark against Islamic revolution into public enemy number one.

Iran's diplomatic channels were unclogged, although Western hostages held by Lebanese fundamentalists remain a barrier to improved relations.

Iraq agreed in mid-August to meet Al Iran's terms for a final settlement of the 1980-88 war. Tehran had always regarded the power of Iraq, built on Gulf Arab oil money and U.S. connivance, as a temporary phenomenon.

Does this mean violence pays?

By William MacClean
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Nelson Mandela, hailing Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi as a friend, has gambled his following in South Africa's troubled townships by proposing peace talks with his unpopular rival.

Political analysts said the plan, announced last week, would be coolly received by township youths allied to Mandela's African National Congress (ANC). They have fought a month-long battle for control of Johannesburg's black suburbs with Buthelezi's Zulu-based Inkatha movement.

"It's a very risky move," said Rayley Keys, who monitors grassroots political unrest in Natal, where 4,000 people have been killed in ANC-Inkatha fighting since 1986.

"It's a little bit of a pipedream to think that because senior people meet then things lower down will improve," he added.

But some analysts said Mandela was forced to abandon his

opposition to a meeting with Inkatha to revive faltering negotiations with the white government on political reform.

"Mandela had no choice because of the talks. It was the lesser of two evils," said analyst Gary Van Staaden of Witwatersrand University's Institute of International Affairs.

The ANC's negotiations with Pretoria on ending 300 years of white domination have been jeopardised by the township violence in which more than 760 people have died.

Van Staaden said the ANC's plan for joint talks on the violence with the leaders, including Buthelezi, of South Africa's ten tribal homelands "was one of the last things the ANC wants to do."

"But it was a necessary and courageous step," he added.

Recalling an earlier era of friendship between the ANC and Inkatha, Mandela swallowed his pride on Friday and called Buthelezi "my old friend."

Chief Buthelezi has been one of those men who have fought for my release and the release of

other comrades," he recalled.

"I have made efforts for a meeting not only between the two of us but also between the organisations to bring them closer to each other," Mandela told Britain's Channel 4 television.

Mandela has resisted a one-to-one meeting with Buthelezi, something the Inkatha leader has often demanded.

The ANC accuses Buthelezi of collaborating with Pretoria and white-owned big business on a range of issues and of trying to shoot his way into the ANC negotiations with President F.W. De Klerk.

Mandela had a taste of township hostility to Inkatha on Thursday when he attended a Soweto funeral for victims of the fighting. Thirty thousand mourners greeted him with the roar: "Father Mandela, Inkatha is murdering us in Soweto."

The political editor of the Johannesburg Star, Johan Patten, said Mandela, 72, did not have time on his side in his negotiations on political reform with De Klerk.

"Though he shows considerable stamina for a man of his age, he cannot afford to up the stakes and disengage for months or years in the hope that deteriorating conditions will make the government more willing to bargain," he wrote.

"The longer he waits the less able the government will be to take its white constituency with it."

There was no indication of whether Buthelezi would accept a meeting with the ANC as part of the talks involving homeland leaders, but senior ANC and Inkatha officials met behind closed doors on Wednesday for their highest-level talks in 11 years.

Van Staaden said Inkatha had reason to be pleased with the apparent thawing of ANC hostility towards Buthelezi.

"Someone set out on a deliberate course of violence to get someone's (Mandela's) attention and that campaign has worked," he said. "It was disturbing implication for the future conduct of South African politics. Does this mean violence pays?"

Kenya's Somalis live in dusty isolation

By David Ferris
Reuter

MANDERA, Kenya — Hundreds of miles from the high-rise blocks and busy streets of Nairobi, the Ethnic Somalis of north-east Kenya live in dusty isolation.

Many scrape a rare living as nomads in this desert near the border with Somalia. Their fiercely-guarded culture is alien to many Kenyans.

These Kenyans consider the Somalis unfriendly and warlike. Mention of the north-east inspires clucks of disapproval, horror stories and warnings to "beware the shufas (bandits)."

For their part, the country's 200,000 Somalis complain of government abuse and neglect.

Last year authorities ordered a screening of ethnic Somalis — requiring them to prove their Kenyan nationality — saying it was to weed out those engaged in illegal activities such as wildlife poaching and smuggling.

The director of the screening, Rift Valley Provincial Commissioner Yusuf Hajji, himself a

Somali, termed it "very, very successful."

But many Somalis feel the exercise aimed to discredit them or designate them as second class citizens.

Somalis alleged that some genuine Kenyan citizens had their identity documents seized and that families were divided by the deportations that followed.

Ninety Somalis were officially deported, several hundred fled to Somalia and others went to neighbouring Uganda to seek asylum.

Mistrust of Somalis — which they say has led to victimisation — dates from the 1960s when the northeastern Somalis fought against inclusion within Kenya's borders.

The insurrection was eventually crushed by the Kenyan army. Ever since there have been frequent reports of violence in the region.

Desperate poverty and a scattered population have turned the area into fertile ground for roaming bandit gangs which hold up lorries and raid homes and government posts.

The turbulence is the basis for a large army presence in the region.

But Somalis accuse the army of abuses.

"The people in the bush have been killed and maimed. You see whole convoys of armed soldiers heading into the bush and yet there is no war," said an elderly Somali who, like others interviewed in Mandera, refused to be named.

Somalis tell of an incident in 1984 when a skirmish between feuding ethnic Somali tribes in the town of Wajir led to the army rounding up and confining hundreds of Somali men on an airstrip for days without food, air or shade.

In Mandera, the Somalis' most remote outpost, people are angry at the lack of basic services.

There are no paved roads, making travel hard and hazardous, goods expensive and army security operations difficult.

In the rainy season, the north-east is cut off by road from the rest of Kenya and people and goods have to be moved by air. Somalis say military air is

inadequate and schools are short of basic equipment such as dinner plates.

But in the last decade electricity, telephone lines, a post office and a bank have come to Mandera.

The future is not entirely bleak.

Ethiopia and Kenya have plans for a long-distance, paved road which would cut through the region as well as provide better links between the two countries.

The semi-fertile lands of the lower reaches of the northeast are being cultivated by farmers from more overcrowded areas.

Abundant wildlife means parts of the region could be added to Kenya's tourist-attracting game-parks.

And experts say that although it is dry and barren, the region could one day be rich from oil.

Joseph Kwambai, managing director of the National Oil Corporation, said the conditions are right for oil deposits in several areas of the northeast.

But if oil was ever discovered, it could open a political can of worms.

Jordan, Iraq welcome plan

(Continued from page 1)

plan, which stipulates that the international community and the Arabs should be involved in resolving "other" problems of the region is also welcomed by Jordan, the official said.

"It is the first time that a Western leader has linked the Gulf crisis with other problems of the region," the official noted.

Commenting on the French call for restoring Kuwait's sovereignty and granting democracy to its people, the official reaffirmed the Jordanian position that it supports the "restoration of legitimacy in Kuwait and supports whatever choice the people of Kuwait make."

The official also voiced satisfaction with the fourth stage in the French plan providing for arms reduction in the region from "Iran to Morocco."

"The French proposal calls for the reduction of all weapons of mass destruction, including those possessed by Israel," the official pointed out.

Commenting on the initiative, French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard told the Jordan Times that His Majesty King Hussein and President Mitterrand were following the same approach towards resolving the Gulf crisis. "Both leaders have agreed on holding an international conference that would address all matters and resolve all problems of the Middle East," he said.

The ambassador also said that both leaders agree that the Gulf crisis should be resolved in an Arab context. "We are for an Arab solution, provided that the Arabs agree with it in the framework of United Nations resolutions," he said.

Bouchard pointed out that King Hussein had stressed the non-admissibility of acquisition of territory by force and that this principle was included in the French proposal.

Both Jordan and France also endorse the call for granting the Kuwaitis the freedom to express their will and choice based on democratic principles, he said.

Iraq says Arab forces can stay

(Continued from page 1)

Egyptian counterpart and two senior diplomats.

Takriti also denied Egyptian newspaper reports that Iraq had sent Soviet-made missiles and warplanes to Sudan and had targeted the missiles on Egypt's strategic Aswan Dam on the River Nile. "It is absolutely not true," he said.

Takriti also denied Egyptian allegations that its nationals in Iraq were being murdered while Iraqi medical documents on the coffins showed they had died in accidents.

"I do not know why they are doing that. It will only damage ties between our two peoples," he said. But he added that Baghdad was keen on maintaining diplomatic ties with Cairo.

Egyptian security sources said some 72 bodies had arrived from Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait. Takriti had no estimate the number

of Egyptians working in Iraq, but Egyptian officials say close to 1.6 million were there before the invasion.

Egypt, bound to Iraq by a 19-month-old economic alliance, earlier this month reversed its visa regulations, ordering Iraqis and Kuwaitis to acquire entry visas before arriving.

Diplomats said the Egyptians feared Iraqi "saboteurs" might enter the country. The ambassador said Baghdad would not reciprocate and that some 1,300 Egyptians had returned to their jobs in Iraq this month.

Egyptian officials say more than 300,000 Egyptians have returned home from both Iraq and Kuwait in the past few weeks. The Egyptian labour union has urged all Egyptian labourers to leave Iraq, telling them not to worry since they are likely to replace Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in the Gulf.

Assad fails to get pledge

(Continued from page 1)

The presidents made no reference to the question of Western hostages in Lebanon. A pro-Iranian leader there said last week the British hostages among the 12 missing Westerners would be released soon.

"You should know that our view on the Persian Gulf crisis fully corresponds with Syria's," Rafsanjani told a joint airport news conference.

He added that he and Assad had agreed on a common course of action for various outcomes of the crisis.

"Whether the situation in the region remains the same, or Iraq is devastated, or the anti-Iraq front is weakened, or war breaks out or Israel intervenes — we have common positions on what to do in each case," he said.

In response to a question, Rafsanjani denied press reports that Assad had carried a message from the United States for the Iranian leadership. "The Americans are not so brazen as giving His Excellency a message for us," he said.

The United States had made clear before the visit it was looking to Assad to persuade the Iranians to uphold the U.N. trade embargo and shy away from any sanctions-busting deal with Baghdad.

But Assad said he had fully briefed Rafsanjani on his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in

Damascus 11 days ago. Iran Monday announced the arrest of 29 people for trying to smuggle food to Iraq, its first report of a concrete measure to enforce the blockade against Baghdad.

A well-informed source in Tehran said that Tehran had agreed to buy some 200,000 barrels of refined Iraqi oil. The United States and its allies were also alarmed at reports from Washington that Baghdad had asked Tehran to link its supplies to Iraq's and help it circumvent the sanctions.

But the sources close to the Syrians said Tehran would not consider a plan to link the pipelines, and that Rafsanjani had promised Assad he would not buy Iraq's embargoed crude.

Addressing the United Nations, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Monday condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but also said the long-term presence of Iraqi forces in the Gulf would be detrimental to the region's security.

Velayati said Iran from the very outset had condemned Iraqi aggression and demanded an immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal.

But the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait had regrettably provided a pretext for foreign powers, particularly the United States and Western countries, to dispatch their forces on a large scale to the Gulf, he said.

Shevardnadze: Use last resort

(Continued from page 1)

also of plain common sense, to take a responsible and humane attitude, above all vis-a-vis the Iraqi people, who surely yearn for peace, tranquility and good relations with their neighbours."

Shevardnadze hoped Arab states would "live up to the expectations of mankind" and help find a way out of the Gulf crisis.

This would make it possible to deal with other conflicts in the Middle East and to find an equitable solution to the Palestinian problem, he said.

As three weeks of U.N. General Assembly speeches began, Monday, leaders from France, Brazil, Argenti-

na, Poland, and Indonesia condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and clamoured for withdrawal of Iraqi troops.

Calling Iraq a "warlike state," French President Francois Mitterrand told the 160-nation assembly that the international community would not retreat from its demand that Iraq leave Kuwait. The French leader also outlined a four-stage plan for peace in the Middle East.

Shevardnadze, commenting on Iraqi warnings, said Monday statements about possible attacks in the Gulf and the Middle East were inadmissible.

"Any attacks would unleash a war and that would mean disaster," he said in reply to reporters' questions.

War refugees find peace at church in Sri Lankan jungle

By Fezal Samath
Reuters

MADHU CHURCH, Sri Lanka — Suppiah, sprawling in a book while other children play around him in this small jungle outpost, is too young to know why he is far from home.

Fearing for the four-year-old boy's safety, his parents came here to find refuge from the war between Sri Lankan security forces and Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east of the country.

More than 11,000 people have sought shelter in this outpost in the north, 240 kilometres from the capital, Colombo. A church and a few buildings are the only signs of civilisation.

Clare Mangaleswaran, 33, reached the camp with her two children after a 160-kilometre walk, boat and tractor ride through jungle from the Tamil stronghold, Jaffna, further north.

She travelled mostly at night to avoid air force planes.

"It was horrible. We ran to the nearest church when Sri Lankan planes started bombing our hometown. I saw a house being reduced to rubble when a bomb fell on it," the former teacher said.

Her two children aged 18 months and three-and-a-half years still vomit with fear when they hear loud sounds. "They have been like this since the bombing," said Mangaleswaran, who lost her mother in a helicopter attack.

She is one of the few living in a walled house here. Thousands of others spend their days in two-metre by 1.5-metre thatched huts.

An abandoned bus has been converted to a temporary home by a family of four.

Surrounded by thick jungle, Madhu Church has been a place of worship for Roman Catholics since a shrine was first established by foreign missionaries more than three centuries ago.

The church's annual nine-day festival in July and August is usually attended by 400,000 people from across Sri Lanka.

But since 1983, when Tamil guerrillas started fighting for a separate Tamil minority state, the crowds have dwindled. Only 2,000 local people attended the last fest.

But refugees, drawn by the serenity of the churchyard with its sheltering flamboyant trees, have made Madhu the biggest camp in

the north for Sri Lankans displaced by the war.

"It looks peaceful. That is why we are here," said Allahu Amman, 38, a housewife from Trincomalee. She and 60 others trekked 120 kilometres through jungle from the east coast of the camp.

When the church bell rings in the morning, hundreds of children carrying books and chairs scurry across the camp. School has begun under the trees with refugee teachers holding classes.

The pastor, Father Philipulaj Jesurajah, said refugees chose Madhu Church because it was only a few kilometres from Mannar on the northwest coast where thousands of people board boats for India to escape the war.

At least 100,000 refugees have fled to south India from Mannar since June.

There are no newspapers, no mail or electricity here.

Residents listen eagerly to the radio or chat with drivers who arrive in food lorries on the only passable dirt road, pock-marked with holes drilled by monsoon rains.

The trip to Madhu from Vavuniya, 64 kilometres to the east, can be dangerous.

In rebel country, the air force shoots at anything that moves. Travellers are often forced to abandon their vehicles and dive for cover if military aircraft approach.

On the ground, rebel patrols stop and interrogate those attempting the journey over the rutted road.

Recently, a Reuters correspondent attempting the trip was stopped by a group of 13- and 14-year-old rebels who demanded his press accreditation and wanted to know whether there were any Sinhalese (the majority community) in the car.

The rebels have killed hundreds of non-Tamil civilians in village attacks to force other ethnic and religious groups to leave northern and eastern settlements. Journalists have not been attacked.

Food and medicines are in short supply at Madhu Church. Father Jesurajah said most of the food was brought in by foreign relief agencies since the rebels would not allow government lorries into the area.

"The food is short because the number of refugees are increasing," daily," he said.

A local doctor said 15 babies were born in the camp. "They are doing well, despite the conditions in which they were born," he said.

Kuwaiti money safe and intact in West

By Clare Pedrick

NEW YORK — As more reports filter through of the havoc being wrought in Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi takeover, Kuwaitis themselves may find some small solace in the thought that their government is likely to remain one of the world's wealthiest in spite of the Iraqi takeover. It's foreign workers and private citizens who are being hit hardest.

Economists monitoring the situation from outside the Gulf state say that while personal fortunes may collapse overnight, a combination of far-sighted financial management and fortuitous circumstances will almost certainly save this rich nation from the ruin that generally faces countries plunged into full-scale war.

The bulk of Kuwait's petrodollar fortune was invested abroad, out of the reach of Iraq, say economists. Both government and private companies have extensive interests in Europe and the U.S., and although the Kuwaiti economy is petroleum-based, the country's financial brains have long spread their net far and wide to include activities ranging from automobiles to real estate.

"Kuwait was the best, most diversified and most aggressive investor of all the Arab exporting nations and it had an excellent portfolio," said Ibrahim M. Oweis, an Egyptian-born professor of economics at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and a specialist in energy and oil.

"It was this variety of investment, for example, which prevented the drop in oil prices of 1986 from having too great an effect on Kuwait. The majority of Kuwait's investments are abroad."

Thanks to the timing of the

Aug. 2 takeover, most of Kuwait's top executives were also out of the country when the Iraqi troops marched in. "A great many of them were in Europe on vacation at the time of the takeover — fortunately," said Mohammad Saad Al Sallal, counsellor at the Kuwaiti Mission to the United Nations in New York.

Now, those managers, together with colleagues already based overseas, are working day and night to protect and consolidate assets. Economists have put the total value of Kuwait's foreign investments at between \$100 and \$150 billion, generating an annual revenue of between \$10 and \$15 billion, after taxes have been paid. The government-owned assets include a fair chunk of Californian real estate, a resort in North Carolina, the largest paper mill in Spain, an 8.5 per cent stake in BP, a sizeable number of shares in Mercedes Benz and two large petroleum refinery and distribution outlets in the U.S. and Europe.

Managed through the state holding company, the London-based Kuwait Investment Office, these overseas assets were all initially frozen in the aftermath of the Iraqi takeover, the aim being to prevent Iraq from having access to the Kuwaiti billions.

"Officially all the funds are still blocked, but for all practical purposes the Kuwaiti government in exile has been given permission by the various countries where those investments are held to conduct business as usual," said Prof. Oweis. "There should be no risk whatsoever to these funds."

Said Al Sallal: "The Kuwaiti government has access to these overseas assets which are all intact. We are using them to help mount resistance to Iraq and to

cover the expense of maintaining a government in exile." Kuwait is reported to be making a significant contribution to the cost of deploying U.S., Egyptian and other forces in Saudi Arabia, currently estimated at \$25 million per day. It is also believed to have provided help to Egypt to cover the cost of repatriating tens of thousands of Egyptians fleeing Iraq and Kuwait and is understood to have made offers of compensation to countries such as Turkey which will lose substantial revenues from the oil pipeline which crosses from the Gulf to the Black Sea.

In its handling of its petroleum, Kuwait has shown itself to be similarly enlightened. Unlike most producers, Kuwait runs what is known in the trade as "downstream operation." As well as pumping it out of the ground the Kuwaitis refine, export and distribute their oil to their overseas customers, selling it at the pumps through a network of gas stations.

Managed by the London-based Kuwait Petroleum International PLC (KPI), the government-owned holding company, the country's downstream outfit is based in the U.S. — the Santa Fe Investment Corporation — and in Europe, where it trades under the name of O8. The European operation is by far the bigger of the two, with 6,500 service stations in countries throughout the Western continent. The O8 network began life in 1983 when Kuwait purchased most of the Gulf Oil Corporation's operations in Western Europe. Since then, KPI has made a string of acquisitions, including many of the Mobil Oil Corporation's operations in Italy. It sells more than 400,000 barrels of petroleum products a day in Europe.

For the immediate future, oil supplies to the O8 network will be furnished by the Kuwaitis themselves — at the time of the takeover, 30 tankers, all full, were on their way to Europe carrying 15 million barrels, worth an estimated total of \$350 million. When they run out, probably towards the end of September, KPI President Nadar Sultan has confirmed that Saudi Arabia will step in to make up the shortfall. In the industry it is widely expected that Saudi Arabia will increase its output by as much as two million barrels a day to help replace the four million barrels a day of exports from Iraq and Kuwait, lost because of U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Said Prof. Oweis: "Saudi Arabia will have no problems in replacing Kuwait supplies. It has the largest flexibility in the world in terms of production. Its output range is between three million and 11 million barrels a day and this can be varied by royal decree. At present they are producing about 5.2 million barrels but they have said they will be increasing production."

As for assets left behind in Kuwait, much will depend on the outcome of the crisis and the extent of the damage done by Iraqi troops. At the National Bank of Kuwait offices in New York, staff are still trying to get news of the situation back home. Kuwait's biggest bank, and one of the largest in the Arab World, is an international operation, with branches in the U.S., Britain, France, Singapore and Bahrain, and half of its \$14 billion assets are invested overseas.

"Even so, that means we have lost 50 per cent of our assets, or at least until something happens politically," said bank spokesman

Nick Arens. "We understand a lot of looting went on, but we still haven't been able to make contact. We just don't know what we have left, whether walls and buildings have been knocked down. There is no precedent of how to handle a situation like this."

According to reports gleaned from Kuwaitis and foreigners who have fled the country, the damage to the infrastructure is considerable. At the Kuwait Mission to the U.N. in New York Mohammad Saad Al Sallal said tanks and bombs appear to have taken their toll on roads and buildings. Nevertheless, if out-right war is averted, the trail of destruction could be put right fairly quickly, say economists.

Said Henry Schuler, director of the energy research programme at Washington's Centre for Strategic and International Studies: "Unless the Iraqis blow up the oil-fields or have a scorched earth policy, or start cannibalising equipment I would not think there would be very much effect on the country's economy." If Iraq were to blow up the oil-fields, experts predict it would take between six and eight months to get them back in operation.

In the Kuwaiti capital, foreign exchange, mainly dollars, pounds and Swiss francs, has been looted from the banks. There have also been reports of as much as \$3 billion worth of gold taken from banks and stores, though some economists believe the real figure to be much lower. "I am inclined to treat that figure with some scepticism," said Prof. Richard Cooper, professor of economics at Harvard University. "It would be unusual to have so much gold in the country. Most countries

store it in the basement of the Federal Reserve in New York or in London where gold is traded."

The greatest hardships will undoubtedly be suffered at the individual levels. The Kuwaiti dinar, valued at U.S. \$3.50 prior to the takeover, is now worthless. Thousands of people, and especially foreign guest workers who had made Kuwait their home, have seen their savings wiped out at a single stroke.

For the Kuwaitis themselves, the past few weeks have meant adjusting to levels of deprivation that would have been unthinkable a little more than a month ago. "At the moment, our information is that most people are staying locked inside their homes," said Al Sallal, who estimates the number of Kuwaitis trapped by the takeover at about 650,000. "You can't imagine what a shock it has been for these people, both psychologically and materially."

Said Prof. Oweis: "This country had an extremely high per capita income and the people were very well looked after by the government. There was tremendous wealth in terms of lifestyle and buildings. Almost everyone had a swimming pool. There was free health care and education. Students were even given money to study abroad. All that has crumbled overnight. Under the present circumstances, people are just happy to survive."

Reports indicate some Kuwaitis are still resisting. "There have been some attacks and suicide car bombs," said Al Sallal. "Of course, there is no comparison between this kind of resistance and the Iraqi army of 250,000. It is more symbolic than anything else" — World News Link.

Birds flee Western presence in the Arabian Peninsula

By Meredith Campbell
The Associated Press

MUSCAT, Oman — Winging their way alongside the international airborne dawn, patrols policing the gulf are majestic species of birds whose ancestral flightpaths are now increasingly endangered by the swelling sky traffic.

This is the season when millions of large and small birds fly sedately by night through Gulf airspace, navigating by the stars to winter in Africa where the food and climate suit them.

Covering thousands of kilometres from Eastern Europe,

they already face innumerable other hazards including accidents, strong headwinds and lack of food and water, Middle East-based ornithologists say.

Some species, such as the white stork, fly by day and by nature endeavour to dodge the military might around them, according to Michael Gallagher, curator of the Oman Natural History Museum and author of the textbook reference "Birds of Oman."

Known as the Ciconia Ciconia, they are heavy birds, coloured mostly white except for black on their wings, large red beaks and long red legs, and weigh around 3.5 kilograms.

They have a broad wingspan of more than one metre helping to lift them up in the columns of hot air rising from the sizzling ground below.

Circling effortlessly over the desert, they can travel long distances until the thermals die out or they spot rare green pastures. They then descend and search for grasshoppers, beetles and other small creatures, an invasion welcomed by arid land tribal farmers.

"The white stork breeds in fewer numbers nowadays," Gallagher says. "We in the Gulf can at least both welcome and safeguard them."

"From rings, sometimes found on the legs of dead birds, we know that many come from Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Most storks would fly to Africa south across or around the Mediterranean sea, but for some reason our birds have gone too far east," he says.

"They now have the longer journey round Oman, through Salalah in the Sultanate's southern province of Dhofar, to Africa. Not surprisingly, most return by the shorter route."

In addition to risks in the clouds, birds feeding on the ground have to fend off for attacks and death at the hands of

ignorant hunters, says Gallagher. The risk of poisoning is also greater, he says.

"I feel it is our responsibility to wish them well on their journey," Gallagher says. "I have appealed for reports of dead birds discovered with rings on their legs, and any other information about where they were found, in order that their origin can be established."

Following the recovery of ringed birds from 1912 onwards, Oman has been confirmed as the autumnal line of migration for the white stork.

The Sultanate occupies the southeastern part of the Arabian

Peninsula and curves southwest from its guardianship of the Strait of Hormuz with Iran to the border with Yemen, a coastal distance of 1,700 kilometres.

In the Arabian states of the Gulf, the white stork is very scarce and usually seen only in small numbers, Gallagher said.

Larger numbers occur infrequently such as the 65-70 reported flying north over Kuwait in April, 1967. Among later records, an estimated 300 landed at Abu Dhabi airport in September 1984. A further nine were spotted in Bahrain in August, 1984. This was the recorded sighting of the bird for the island.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE



BEKANNTMACHUNG

für Deutsche zur Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag

Am 02. Dezember 1990 findet die Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag statt.

Deutsche, die außerhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, einschließlich Berlin (Geltungsbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes), leben und hier keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, können bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

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Antragsvordrucke (Formblätter) sowie informierende Merkblätter können:

- von den diplomatischen und konsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland,
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- von den Kreiswahlleitern im Geltungsbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes angefordert werden.

Weitere Auskünfte erteilt die Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

Amman, den 19. September 1990

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Chinese folk hero scores perfect 10 in gymnastics, leads medals sweep

PEKING (R) — A crew-cut folk hero from China scored a perfect 10 on the horizontal bar Tuesday to establish himself as Asia's best all-around gymnast and lead a Chinese medals sweep.

The crowd chanted "Li Jing is the greatest" as he claimed the Asian Games individual gold medal with a near flawless performance in the six disciplines.

Li scored 59.150 points, while Guo Linyue took the silver with 58.8 and Li Xiao-Shuang edged out Japan's Daisuke Nishikawa at the final apparatus 58.350 to 58.3.

Li, who helped a new generation of Chinese gymnasts retain the team title Sunday, signalled his own gold medal intentions by executing a spectacular vault over the horse, his second routine.

He maintained the form of a world champion on the parallel bars. Li then set his sights on the all-around title, in which he finished third at the 1989 World Championships.

A born showman who first competed in Hunan province at the age of six, Li actually broke off his routine at one point Tuesday to acknowledge the cheers of his teenage girl fans. It didn't seem to affect his concentration.

His next discipline was the horizontal bar. Here his breathtaking display of spins and reverses kept the spectators so tense that the climax brought an audible sigh of relief.

Li's perfect 10, third in the

Peking games after the scores of compatriots Fan Di and Chen Cuifeng in Monday's women's team event, put his own victory beyond doubt as far as the crowd was concerned.

There was also little doubt in the spectators' minds that Li, instrumental in helping China prolong an unbeaten run in the event since 1978, had now emerged as a worthy successor to Li Ning, the legendary winner of four golds at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

"I felt a little tense and wilted myself to become calm," he said afterwards. "I know that at the world level I must improve my floor exercises."

By the halfway stage of Tuesday's competition, Guo had also pulled away from the rest of the field, leaving only Li Xiao-Shuang and Nishikawa to provide a measure of excitement in battling for the bronze.

The Chinese gymnast slipped on the parallel bar, and had to fight it out with Nishikawa until the floor exercise when he turned in an unbeatable performance.

Li Xiao-Shuang punched the air after his routine and the crowd erupted in joy even before the judges confirmed their judgement that China had indeed completed the clean sweep.

Marksmen inspire China
Meanwhile Marksman Xu Haifeng, China's first ever gold

medal winner and lighter of the Asian Games flame, fired his team on to take four out of six gold medals on the opening day of competition Tuesday.

"Today was quite normal, but not my best," said Xu, 33, as stoney-faced at the post-match news conference as he was on the shooting range.

Xu shot six perfect 10-point bullseyes in a row in the finals of the individual free pistol event, matching the Asian record of 660 he set at the Seoul Asian Games in 1986.

ASIAN GAMES

A national hero since winning China's first ever Olympic gold medal in Los Angeles in 1984, Xu has a chance six golds in the Peking games. "Of course I want them all, but it's impossible to win them all," he said.

Shooting is not normally a big spectator sport but Chinese fans packed the Peking range cheering Xu's bid for the gold.

Japanese shooters spoke Xu's name with reverence. "He's very good, very good," they said, shaking their heads.

In Tuesday's other shooting events, Japan and South Korea picked up one gold apiece in the air rifle 60-shot team and individual competitions. China's women's team took the gold in the sport pistol 2x30 and swept all

medals in the individual event. The Chinese women's team, led by People's Liberation Army soldier Li Duihong, scored 1757. The silver went to South Korea (1729) and the bronze to North Korea (1726).

In the men's air rifle, Japan took the team gold with 1752. South Korean sharpshooter Ahn Byung-Kyun won the gold in the individual competition, forcing the Japanese into second place with his last shot.

"We expected to win the gold in the team event but we lost. We were depressed and shocked," said Ahn. "So I went out and hoped, and did my best."

China's men, led into the final by Xu's performance in the qualifying round, took the gold in the free pistol 60-shot team competition with 1683 points. Japan clinched the silver with 1646, followed by North Korea with 1643.

China swept the individual free pistol 60-shot event. Xu took the gold, Li Jinbao the silver and Wang Yifu the bronze.

Table tennis

China and South Korea, two of the biggest names in world table tennis, Tuesday cruised into the last eight of both men's and women's events at the Asian Games.

A full-strength Chinese men's team, silver medalists at the 1989 World Championships, steamrollered Pakistan without dropping a

set. The South Koreans, meanwhile, looked equally convincing as they bundled aside Macau to continue their defence of the Asian Games title won on home ground four years ago.

They were spearheaded by Yoo Nam-Kyu, men's singles gold medalist both at those games and at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Both Chinese and South Koreans ended their group matches with perfect 3-0 records. They are joined in the quarter-finals by Japan, North Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Pakistan and Macau.

In the women's events, China, South Korea, North Korea and Hong Kong all won group matches Tuesday to move predictably into the last eight.

Highlights were the host nation's whitewash of the Malaysians, and North Korea's emphatic win over the long dominant Japanese women.

Pyeongyang's Asian Cup winner Yu Sun-Bok trailed by one set but rallied to defeat Mika Hoshino 18-21, 21-15, 21-14. Later she teamed with World Championship singles silver medalist Li Bin-Hui to outplay Hosono and Miki Katsukawa in the doubles.

Despite their defeat, the Japanese women went through to the quarter-finals along with Macau, Malaysia and Taiwan.

Asians seek more affordable Olympics

PEKING (AP) — Asian sports leaders have called for action to help developing nations afford to play host to the Olympics.

Other speakers at a seminar of the Olympics said money has become too big a factor in the games.

"There are signs that the financial cost of Olympism is rising at a rate which may put the staging of the Olympic Games beyond the reach of most cities, especially Asian cities," said Choy Man-Lip, vice president of South Korea's National Olympic Committee.

The South Korean capital of Seoul was host to the 1988 Olympics.

Choy and other speakers expressed concern that future Olympics would become a monopoly of rich countries. They urged that the International Olympic Committee help nations less able to afford the games.

"There was a consensus among participants that something must be done to reduce the financial involvement of future Olympic so that developing countries also can host them," said Kim Sang-Youn, president of the General Association of the Asian Sports Federation.

His federation sponsored the seminar, which attracted about 70 Asian sports leaders in Peking for the Asian Games, an Olympic-style competition among more than 4,000 athletes from 37 nations. The 16-day games opened last Saturday.

Choy noted that Atlanta, chosen as host for the 1996 Olympics, has announced it would have to spend at least \$1.2 billion to stage the games, although the city already has most of the required facilities.

He proposed that future Olympic host cities be chosen on a rotating basis among continents to avoid excessive competition and reduce costs.

He said, for example, regions eligible for the Olympics could be formed by combining Africa and Europe, Asia and Oceania, North America, and South and Central America and the Caribbean countries.

The competition for selecting the host city would then be restricted to cities within one region and this would simplify the selection process and reduce expenses.

Soviet figure skating pair on edge about future

CERGY PONTOISE, France (AP) — Four-time world and 1988 Olympic pair champions Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov are unsure of their future as the figure skating season approaches.

The Soviet couple have dominated their event since the 1986 World Championships in Geneva, when they won the title in their first try.

But after nearly five years at the top, they face important decisions. They are skating with Tatiana Tarasova's professional company in France, although maintaining they have not made up their minds about turning pro.

"For the moment, we haven't prepared anything for 1991, but when we go back to Russia everything will be decided," Gordeeva said in an interview over the weekend.

Gordeeva and Grinkov recently left their coach, Stanislav Leonovich, to work with Tarasova. It's the first time since Tarasova started her professional company, The All Stars, a few years ago that she has agreed to work with an amateur couple.

"We're only training with Tarasova, so that doesn't mean that we're turning into professionals, but we're thinking about it," said Gordeeva, who was just 14 when she and Grinkov won in their first try at the world senior competition.

"We will take part in some of

the All Stars galas as professionals but carry on as amateurs like now," explained Grinkov, 23.

Tarasova was the force behind Irina Rodnina and Alexander Zaitsev, who won the Olympic title twice and the world competition six times in the 1970's.

In those days, world-class Soviet amateur athletes generally sought to remain as top amateurs as long as possible.

Now, with other opportunities available, many Soviet athletes are looking for ways to capitalise financially while at their peaks.

This year Gordeeva and Grinkov skated poorly but the couple still managed to win the European and world titles.

"There were a certain accumulation of competitions and trainings which, of course, I got a bit tired of," said Gordeeva, now 19.

"And I had a bruise on my right shoulder eight months ago which is only feeling better now," said Grinkov.

A Soviet official, Vladimir

Italians and Dutch warm up for European championship

PALERMO, Italy (R) — Italy embarks on a new soccer venture they hope will erase the bitter memory of third place in the World Cup when they meet the Netherlands in a warm-up for the 1992 European Championship qualifiers Wednesday.

The Italians, World Cup hosts and favourites, have said they feel vindicated by finishing unbeaten and conceding only one goal. They were eliminated on penalties by Argentina after a 1-1 draw.

But the outcome still hurts and Italy, who play their first qualifier in Hungary on Oct. 17, are determined to go one step better than the semifinals of the 1988 European Championship won by the Dutch.

Coach Azeglio Vicini is likely to field an unchanged defence but midfielder Giuseppe Giannini and striker Gianluca Vialli, who played against Argentina in Naples on July 4, were not included in his 18-man squad.

Internazionale's Nicola Berti, who played in Italy's last match, the third place playoff against England, was picked but an injury in Sunday's league game at Torino has forced him to drop out.

Vicini will almost certainly give Sampdoria's Roberto Mancini, a World Cup reserve who has been in excellent form this season, a chance in midfield.

The Netherlands, for whom it is also the only match before they launch their European title de-

fence in Lisbon on Oct. 17, want to forget their poor World Cup performance.

Marco van Basten, star striker with AC Milan, was arguably the biggest flop of the tournament. Expectations of club team mate Ruud Gullit were not as high as he was just back from a year's layoff with knee trouble.

"This Holland (team) is reborn from the ashes of the World Cup," Gullit said. "We're making a new start with (Rinus) Michels, the man who guided us to the European title."

Michels, back at the helm for the third time, has added uncapped Ajax Amsterdam striker Dennis Bergkamp to his squad after Ajax Captain John van 'T Schip cried off with an ear infection.

But the essential backbone remains, with Jan Kocian at the centre of defence, and Captain Ivan Hasek and Michal Bilek in midfield.

In the tough group one that also includes France and Spain, Macala and his squad know they must get a good blend of players right from the outset of their campaign.

"In the past, we haven't played too well in midweek. We want to

Reshaped Czech team launches European challenge

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovakia will be paying the price of World Cup success when they open their European Soccer Championship qualifying campaign against Iceland Wednesday.

New manager Milan Macala wanted to retain the bulk of the squad that his predecessor Jozef Venglos took to the quarter-finals in Italy.

But he will have to field a somewhat reshaped team in the

eastern town of Kosice Wednesday because of the absence of several players who used the World Cup stage to secure or renew contracts abroad.

Striker Tomas Skuhravy, who now plays for Italian Club Genoa, will be missing with a knee injury. Stanislav Griga, Josef Chovanec, Milan Lubovy and Frantisek Straka are all needed by their clubs in Western Europe.

make up for that as soon as possible," said midfielder Bilek.

"If we want to qualify for the finals in Sweden, we have to defeat Iceland, win all our other home matches and get some victories away from home as well."

The Icelanders beat Albania 2-0 but lost to France 2-1 in their previous group matches, both at home. They last played Czechoslovakia in a 1986 friendly in Reykjavik, losing 2-1.

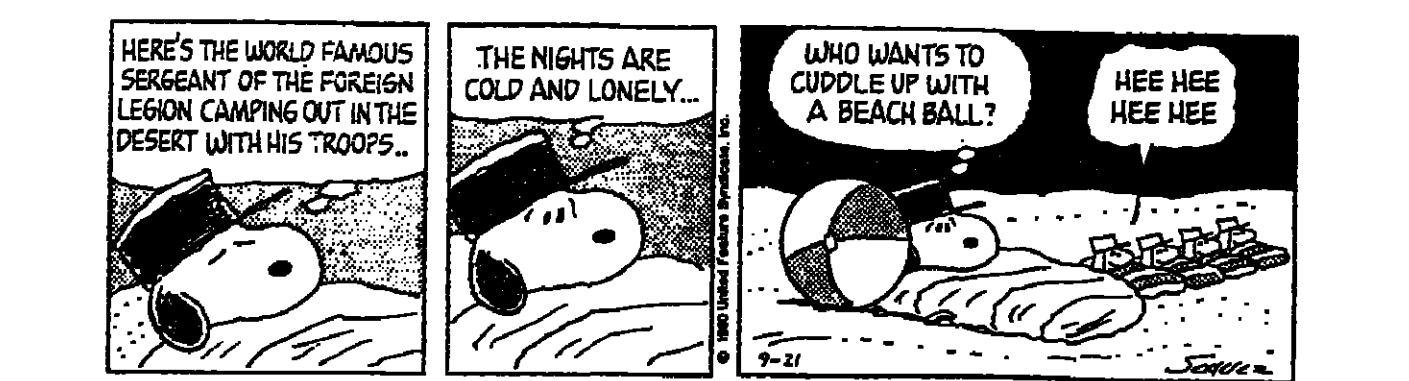
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make sure that you hold steady to proven principles while searching for new ways to express your true nature. Ingenious arrangements that have assisted your interests in the past will work for you now...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your work activities provide you with the best means by which you can improve your financial situation.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) A heavy mood can strike you especially if someone has let you down and your basic wise course today is to maintain and keep a lighter tone.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Put yourself in closer touch with members of your household and let them advise you when a need for patience and self-control now comes up.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get into every source where there is information you can utilize in your everyday affairs and don't be off on any tangent that appeals.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are very much concerned with some details of your financial affairs and need to study how the public handles such a situation.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You need an entirely new slant on how you can extend your present interests into new horizons and don't have it be purely a worldly attitude.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Private conversations with an expert can bring you the answers for which you have been searching so seek them and don't waste time over non-productive jobs.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Discriminating friends and outsiders of experience will help you flow towards prosperity now, but a frivolous person can consume too much of your time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a day when an advanced awareness of how to do your daily activities brings you more acclaim but don't get in a hassle at your residence.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) You are inspired to some new interests today which should be looked into while at the same time sidestep associating with a vacillating acquaintance.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) Look for the various members of your family who have good judgement and get their suggestions for your advancement but avoid a carping pal.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Most everyone has better ideas than you have today so listen to their viewpoints and follow them as closely as you can; don't argue with a self-righteous associate.

THE BETTER HALF.

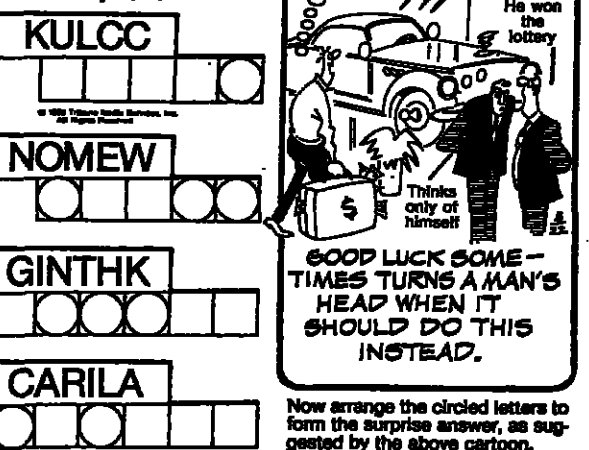
By Harris



"Our interior decorator says I have to divorce you or paint you surf blue."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: KULCC HIS NOMEW CARILA

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHOOP Lisle SMUDGE ABSURD Answer: When money talks, a greedy person doesn't --- MISS A WORD

ACROSS

- 1 Eur. capital
- 2 Pome fruit
- 3 Coarse fish
- 4 Declare openly
- 5 Leg behind
- 6 Essayist
- 7 Allot
- 8 Sika steer
- 9 In favor of
- 10 Celebration
- 11 Foundations
- 12 River to the North Sea
- 13 High shoe
- 14 Movie awards
- 15 Social conduct
- 16 Fashion
- 17 Cash
- 18 Cereal grain
- 19 Shoestring
- 20 Jockey's outfit
- 21 Enticement
- 22 Lubricant
- 23 Places for ducks
- 24 Faint trace of color
- 25 10-year periods
- 26 2-seat bike
- 27 Epochs
- 28 Gem surface
- 29 Make
- 30 Waterlight
- 31 Rapeseed
- 32 Cry of woe
- 33 Football throw
- 34 Appraisal
- 35 Orchestra member
- 36 Wharf
- 37 Serenity
- 38 Chimney channel
- 39 61 — chair
- 40 Mountain chain
- 41 Flowerless plant
- 42 DOWN
- 43 Incline
- 44 Above
- 45 Vehicle
- 46 Sheep
- 47 Gr. city
- 48 Tidy
- 49 Sheet of window glass
- 50 Movable cover
- 51 Building wing
- 52 Deduction
- 53 Cry of woe
- 54 Football throw
- 55 Appraisal
- 56 Orchestra member
- 57 Wharf
- 58 Serenity
- 59 Chimney channel
- 60 61 — chair
- 61 Mountain chain
- 62 Flowerless plant
- 63 Soft drink
- 64 Fishing cord
- 65 Scenic public
- 66 Vehicle
- 67 Sheep
- 68 Gr. city
- 69 Tidy
- 70 Sheet of window glass
- 71 Movable cover
- 72 Building wing
- 73 Deduction
- 74 Cry of woe
- 75 Football throw
- 76 Appraisal
- 77 Orchestra member
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S. Africa imposes curfew on 7 townships; blacks vow defiance

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Millions of South African blacks in seven Johannesburg townships will be confined to their homes after dark Tuesday by a government curfew imposed to quell weeks of bloody factional violence.

But black groups linked to Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) said they would defy the dusk-to-dawn curfew, the most sweeping measure of a 10-day-old security clampdown on township unrest codenamed "operation iron fist."

The threat of renewed unrest came as President F.W. de Klerk appeared to be making progress in his battle to have international sanctions lifted from South Africa.

De Klerk, on a visit to Washington, won praise from President George Bush for his courage in turning away from apartheid. After two hours of talks with de Klerk at the White House, Bush said the process of change in South Africa was now irreversible.

In the Johannesburg townships, a relative lull has descended since the police and army implemented "operation iron

fast," although police Tuesday reported several violent incidents.

A spokesman said seven blacks were backed to death and thrown from a speeding commuter train between Johannesburg and Soweto Monday evening, the latest in a series of apparently random attacks on train passengers.

In four separate incidents during the past 24 hours, three more blacks were shot dead, one by a police patrol, and another was hacked to death, the spokesman said.

The government says the curfew and other measures are necessary to end the carnage, rooted in bitter rivalry between the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, which has claimed more than 770 lives since mid-August.

But the ANC-allied South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) directly challenged the government, calling on its members to defy the curfew and "continue their organisational tasks and elevate our struggle to a higher level."

"The curfew is not intended to address the violence but to clamp

down on the mass democratic movement and the ANC," SAYCO said in a statement.

De Klerk's white government announced details of the indefinite curfew last Friday, banning movement between 9:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. in black areas including the massive Soweto township, home for more than two million blacks.

Under the curfew's terms, only security forces and black commuters with written permission from their employers will be exempt. Contravention will result in a 1,000 rand (\$400) fine or six months' jail.

Police said those violating the curfew would be held responsible for their own actions. "They would have to bear the consequences," a spokeswoman said.

But the Congress of South African Trade Unions, South Africa's biggest labour organisation, said the curfew would leave innocent township residents unprotected from vigilantes and "agents of darkness."

Anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela said Monday he suspected the South African government was deliberately lax in quelling township violence in

order to undermine the black freedom movement.

In a television interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, Mandela said government elements were conspiring in township unrest to weaken the position of the African National Congress (ANC), of which he is deputy president.

"The government does want to negotiate with a weak ANC and their failure to suppress the violence and to track down the people who are responsible suggests that they are implicated — they are conniving at it," Mandela said.

The ANC's warning that it would pull out of the talks over the government's handling of the crisis was no idle threat, he added.

"We are not threatening," he said. "We will definitely pull out if we feel that all our efforts to get the government to do its duty fail."

Mandela said he believed de Klerk was committed to a peaceful solution to the country's problems. "But I do not exonerate Mr. de Klerk from wanting to negotiate with a weak ANC," he added.

Bhutto gains political ground as opponents launch campaign

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A coalition of widely varying political groups launched a campaign Tuesday against ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, hoping to stick together long enough to defeat her in next month's election.

The group, known as the Islamic Democratic Alliance, has cut deals with smaller parties spanning the range of the ideological spectrum — from Islamic fundamentalism to secular socialism.

"It's a mess," said Ijaz-ul-Haq, campaign manager for the alliance and son of the late Gen. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, who ruled Pakistan for 11 years until his death in a shadowy 1988 plane crash.

Political platforms on the real issues troubling this country of 110 million have been replaced by a single battle cry — "defeat Bhutto."

Alliance leader Nawaz Sharif launched the campaign Tuesday at an election rally at the eastern village of Gujranwala in Pakistan's populous Punjab province.

Sharif, the former chief minister of Punjab, was Ms. Bhutto's political nemesis during the 20 months she was in power. Her government was dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Aug. 6 for alleged corruption, nepotism, incompetence and abuse of power.

Elections were set for Oct. 24, three years ahead of schedule, and are seen as a verdict on Bhutto's government and on Ishaq Khan's decision to dismiss it.

"This is a fight against Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party," said Ijaz, 38, a former banker. "There is so much pressure on everyone that we have to fight together to get the People's Party out."

Analysts say the pressure is coming from two powerful sources — the military and Ishaq Khan.

Early predictions of an easy



Benazir Bhutto

win at the polls evaporated when bitter internal feuding began to dominate the pages of Pakistan's English and Urdu-language newspapers.

New cracks in the alliance surfaced daily.

The latest tremor threatening to destroy the coalition involves an Indian immigrant party that dominates two of Pakistan's largest cities in Ms. Bhutto's home province of Sindh.

News reports said Tuesday the Refugee People's Movement, representing Indians who migrated to Pakistan after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent, is drifting away from the alliance.

The movement accused the alliance of ignoring its demands for the release of party workers jailed during Bhutto's tenure, among other things.

The movement once aligned itself with Bhutto but joined her opponents last November claiming she reneged on promises.

Last week, a meeting of the alliance degenerated into fist-fights, and gunfire.

There also is a growing belief that Bhutto has become the victim of a witch hunt under a thinly veiled guise of special tribunals set up by the caretaker government to try corruption cases

against her former government. The tribunals are seen as blatantly one-sided.

Analysts say Ishaq Khan and his hand-picked caretaker government have sacrificed credibility in their rush to discredit Bhutto.

Earlier this week, the 37-year-old former premier was ordered to stand trial on charges of corruption and misconduct. If found guilty, Bhutto could be disqualified from politics for up to seven years.

Even the army, which ruled Pakistan for a quarter century and still wields enormous influence, has lost patience with the lopsided probes into political corruption in Pakistan.

"There should be more broad-based accountability. This is not the right thing," said one military source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Despite the warnings from Western countries that crucial economic and military aid is at stake, the caretaker government seems undeterred.

"She claims to be the symbol of democracy and the federation," said Rafi Raza, a minister in the caretaker cabinet. "In reality she is neither. She is no modern Joan of Arc, but more like Alice in Wonderland."

While few analysts expect Bhutto's party to pull off a major win at the polls, the resounding defeat her opponents expected to hand her also seems unlikely.

Ijaz predicted a win for his alliance, but added it's unlikely to survive more than six months because of the wide-ranging political philosophies of the component parties and the personal ambitions of their leaders.

"The only way to educate people is with successive elections," said Khalid Rahman, a spokesman for the powerful, right-wing Party of Islam, which had warned that a woman leader would bring the wrath of God on Pakistan.

Moscow reneges on pledge to Poland over mass grave

WARSAW (R) — Soviet authorities have gone back on a pledge to let a medical team from Poland take part in exhuming a mass grave believed to contain Polish victims of Stalinist terror, a prosecutor has said.

"Contrary to an agreement earlier this month allowing Polish specialists to assist in a complete exhumation, regional Soviet officials now say a decision by Moscow is needed," Deputy Prosecutor-General Stefan Sniezko said on state television.

"The officials now speak only in terms of a partial probe, not the complete exhumation they had agreed to earlier."

Poland had sought to assist in exhuming a mass grave discovered last June near the Ukrainian city of Kharkov.

Ukrainian State Security said it contained the remains of 6,500 Polish soldiers and Soviet civilians killed by Stalin's NKVD secret police during World War II.

The NKVD captured 15,000 Polish soldiers in 1939 and is thought to have killed them the following year. The remains of

4,000 of them have been found in Katyn Forest near the Russian city of Smolensk.

It was not until last April that the Kremlin, which had previously blamed the Germans for the Katyn massacre, admitted the NKVD's responsibility.

Meanwhile Polish Deputy Defence Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz said Monday Soviet troops will leave Poland within two years.

He also said Warsaw Pact states failed to agree with the Soviet Union on the number of tanks they could retain under a European conventional arms treaty, planned to be signed in Vienna in November.

He told the army daily *Zolnierz Rzeczypospolitej* that a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops, estimated to total about 50,000 men, should be limited to an "indispensable minimum."

"How many years does that mean? Maybe a year or two but no more," said Onyszkiewicz, a former Solidarity spokesman and one of two civilian deputy defence ministers.

Poland has already told Mos-

cow that it wants Soviet troops, who have been stationed in the country since World War II, to leave.

Onyszkiewicz said the Soviet Union wanted to retain 14,000 tanks of the 20,000 which the Warsaw Pact would be allowed to have under the Vienna arms treaty.

It wanted Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania to share the remaining 6,000, but this would be 2,000 fewer than they sought, he said.

"We opt for a Western proposal giving us 8,000 tanks which is a big difference," Onyszkiewicz said. "We will continue talks and seek a compromise."

East Germany, the seventh member, left the Warsaw Pact Monday, ahead of unification with NATO member West Germany Oct. 3.

The official Czechoslovak News Agency CTK said Sunday a two-day Warsaw Pact meeting last week reached agreement on the number of aircraft each member would have but there was no accord on tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery.

Indian demonstrator shot during protest

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian policeman shot a demonstrator in the head Tuesday and other officers fired in the air, baton-charged and used tear gas to disperse stone-throwing protesters angry at job reservations for low caste Hindus.

A doctor said a young man was in critical condition with a bullet wound in the head and was undergoing surgery.

Senior policeman Assad Farooqi said "someone from our ranks fired" and there would be an enquiry. He said his men were later ordered to fire in the air.

"The people were getting really violent. They pulled us out of our vehicles and smashed them. Even our wireless sets were taken away. It is then we fired," he told Reuters.

At least six buses and seven police vehicles were set on fire when violence escalated following the death of 20-year-old student Surjit Singh Chauhan from self-inflicted burns.

It was some of the worst violence in Delhi since protests erupted shortly after Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh announced the increase in reserved jobs for low caste Hindus, outcasts and people from small tribes on Aug. 7.

Most of the violence occurred about a mile from the hospital, but there were lesser outbreaks in other parts of the Indian capital.

Chauhan died in Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital after dousing himself in kerosene and striking a match near the building Monday in protest at the decision to raise to nearly half the number of civil servant jobs reserved for lower castes.

He was the first to die of several youths who have set fire to themselves in suicidal protests since last Wednesday.

At least 2,000 police and paramilitary colleagues ringed the hospital in a bid to offset violence when Chauhan died with 98 per cent of his skin charred.

Security was stepped up at government and political party buildings, Delhi University and major road crossings which students have repeatedly blocked since Aug. 7.

Bulgarian Socialists re-elect Lilov, oust reformers

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's ruling Socialist Party re-elected Alexander Lilov as its leader Tuesday and ousted key reformers from top party posts.

Lilov, 57, who has strong support among hardliners in the former Communist Party, was re-elected at a party congress despite reformist calls for him to step down.

And in a further swing to the conservatives, four leading reformers were voted off the 151-member ruling Supreme Council.

Dragomir Draganov, Valentin Vasev, Asen Zhablenski and Petar-Emil Mitev, all leaders of ideological movements, lost the council places they gained at a congress last February following the ousting of hardline communist leader Todor Zhivkov.

Former party leader Petar Mladenov and ex-Defence Minister Dobri Dzhurov, who played leading roles in ousting Zhivkov last November, also lost their places on the Supreme Council.

So did Finance Minister Belcho Belchev, who has been involved in debt-ridden Bulgaria's bid to join the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Interior Minister Pencho Penev was retained despite assurances by the Socialists in parliament that the Interior Ministry would be de-politicised.

"We are talking about the depoliticisation of the ministry, not the minister," Lilov told Reuters. Spokesmen for the reformist wing of the party had forecast a split or the party's complete collapse if Lilov were re-elected.

"With Lilov as leader, this is the end," one young reformist delegate said after the leadership vote was announced.

Western diplomats in Sofia said some reformists might split from the main party as soon as Saturday, during a conference organised by the radical factions.

Amnesty urges governments to stop killing of children

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International called Tuesday for an end to the killing, torture and arbitrary imprisonment of children.

As world leaders prepared for this weekend's world summit for children, the London-based human rights organisation described violations in 19 countries, including Iraq, Israel, South Africa and the United States.

"Of all the victims of human rights violations, children are among the least able to stand up for their rights," Amnesty International said. "Governments must therefore be particularly vigilant in protecting those rights."

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, is organising the summit, which will discuss ways of improving the lot of millions of children whose lives are threatened by poverty, disease or malnutrition.

At least 60 heads of state, including U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister

Margaret Thatcher, will meet on Sept. 29-30 at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Amnesty International said children are used as pawns to get their parents to turn themselves in to authorities or make confessions, and often are victims of political and military unrest.

"All too often children are victimised simply because of where they live or who their parents are. Sometimes their age alone makes them targets for abuse," it said.

In Iraq, it said, hundreds of children have disappeared or been tortured. "In Iraq, too, hundreds more children have died in chemical weapons attacks on Kurdish communities, which claimed the lives of thousands of people," Amnesty International said.

Palestinian children have been victims of human rights violations in Israel "virtually daily since the beginning of the intifada," the Palestinian uprising, it said.

In South Africa between 1985 and 1987, it said, an estimated 10,000 children were detained without charge or trial, some for more than a year.

Amnesty International said children are often deliberately targeted for human rights violations because they are seen as a social or political threat.

"In Brazil and Guatemala, where the number of street children has grown dramatically in

recent years... they are tortured and extrajudicially executed by police... often in the name of 'cleaning up the streets,'" Amnesty International said.

In China, children were among more than 1,000 people killed when troops fired on pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking in June 1989, it said.

The human rights group said the United States was one of seven countries that has reportedly executed minors in the past 10 years.

The United States "has 35 prisoners on death row who were under 18 when they committed their crime. One such prisoner, Dalton Prejean, was executed this year," Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International also gave examples of violations in Albania, Argentina, Bolivia, Chad, El Salvador, Mauritania, Myanmar (Burma), Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

U.S. wants new pact on Philippines bases by 1991

MANILA (R) — The United States is hoping for a pact by early next year allowing it continued access to naval, training and air facilities in the Philippines after a gradual withdrawal of American forces, the U.S. ambassador said Tuesday.

But Ambassador Nicholas Platt rejected a suggestion by Philippine President Corason Aquino that the fate of the giant Clark Air Base and four smaller facilities was already sealed.

"We are still very much at the beginning of the negotiating process, and we need to do a lot more talking before we come to any kind of a final agreement," Platt said in a radio interview.

The United States and the Philippines adjourned talks Friday on the future of America's largest overseas military bases, and agreed to resume negotiations in October while technical committees took up specific issues.

The lease on Clark, Subic Bay dockyard and the four smaller facilities expires in September next year.

During the talks the Philippines said it wanted to recover control of Clark and the facilities other than Subic when the lease ends. Aquino told a press conference Monday that continued U.S. use of Subic, which services the U.S. Seventh Fleet, was negotiable.

Chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage suggested a gradual phasing out of U.S. forces that would allow a continued U.S. presence in the former American colony into the next century. Some Philippine officials want a complete American withdrawal in not more than five years.

Platt said there should be a transition period for the handover of Clark and Subic, which employ 78,000 Filipino workers and inject \$1 billion a year into the Philippine economy.

"If you are going to develop alternative uses for the facilities, commercial use, joint use, or... investment projects, this takes time, it takes planning, and if you do it too suddenly, it will disrupt the local economy," said Platt.

Police storm California restaurant, free hostages

LA VERNE, California (AP) — Sheriff's deputies lobbed "flash-bang" grenades into a McDonald's and stormed the restaurant early Tuesday, arresting a gunman and rescuing the last of 19 hostages after a seven-hour standoff, authorities said.

There were no injuries, authorities said. "They were able to get inside without being detected," Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy Bill Wehner said. "A deputy leaped over the counter and took the suspect into custody."

Negotiators had struggled to reach the gunman by telephone but never made contact. He invaded the McDonald's in the late afternoon after fleeing a holdup at a nearby clothing store, authorities said.

Six hours after the gunman took captives, special weapons officers rescued 12 hostages from the restaurant's basement, author-

ities said. Shortly after midnight, they said, diversionary grenades were lobbed into the McDonald's and officers moved in to make the arrest and rescue the seven remaining hostages.

Police Lt. Jim Crawford said the hostages might have included several children.

It was earlier believed two gunmen were inside the restaurant, authorities said. A second, participant in the clothing store robbery was arrested outside the McDonald's.

The gunman's name wasn't immediately disclosed.

The sheriff's 18-member special enforcement team had been called in to negotiate for the hostages' release. Dozens of police officers surrounded the restaurant.

La Verne is about 40 kilometres northeast of Los Angeles.

COLUMN

Samaranch gets honorary degree

PEKING (R) — China, which hopes to host the Olympics in the year 2000, gave International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch an honorary professorship. Samaranch was awarded the title by Peking University on the third day of the city's Asian Games, which run until Oct. 7. (The title) represents that the Olympic ideas are being shared by more and more people throughout the world, including the People's Republic of China," Samaranch was quoted by the official New China News Agency as saying at the ceremony at the Great Hall of the People. He and nearly the entire IOC membership arrived in Beijing on Friday to assist in the Chinese capital's fitness to host the games. Samaranch, accompanied by about 20 IOC delegates, arrived later in Seoul to become the first recipient of the Seoul Peace Prize, Yonhap News Agency said. The \$300,000 Seoul Peace Prize, financed by profits from the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, will be given every two years to acknowledge "outstanding contributions to the promotion of mankind and world peace in any field of human endeavor through sports."

Japanese minister apologises for racial remark

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Minister Seiroku Kajiyama has formally apologised for comparing American blacks with foreign inmates in Tokyo. "I will retract my remark and deeply apologise to all those concerned," Kajiyama said in a statement. Kajiyama, who was appointed justice minister earlier this month, was quoted as saying that blacks and inmates both destroyed good neighbourhoods. "Bad money does not good money, just like America where the black race in and drove out the whites," the Mainichi Shinbun daily quoted him as telling reporters.

Hunter survives bear attack

CODY, Wyoming (AP) — A hunter recovering from a grizzly bear attack says he didn't know he would live when the bear bit his head in its mouth and tried to chew. "I just knew I was going to kill me," Ed Hight said from his hospital bed. But Hight got lucky. Apparently he broke one of the bear's legs with the one shot he fired before the bear overtook him. A hunting companion heard that shot and Hight's shouts and killed the bear. The Cody real estate agent was attacked on Sept. 12 while he and some friends were hunting in a rugged terrain in the Teton National Park. Hight, 52, moved to flush elk from a heavily wooded area, and the grizzly jumped up from behind a log about 30 feet uphill from him. He managed to get his rifle on his shoulder, release the safety and fire once from the hip before the grizzly was on him. The bear reared and knocked him down, then held on and chewed for 15 seconds, tearing open skin above his eye, side and left leg and seriously damaging his left hand. A fellow hunter ran downhill and shot the bear. The rest of the party administered what first aid they could and sent for help. Hight underwent six hours of surgery at Cody's West Park Hospital. He is expected to lose some use of his left hand. Hight said he knew just what to say when game officials told him he could have the bear's hide. "I want to make a rug of it," he told them.

Couple wedding in balloon crash into a tree

STATELINE, Nevada (AP) — It was not the marriage made in heaven that they had envisioned, but newlyweds Kenneth and Stephanie Miller were among spirits after the hot-air balloon they exchanged their vows in crashed into a tree. The balloon, with six people aboard, was launched at Gardnerville, Nevada, 30 kilometres east of Lake Tahoe. But an unexpected easterly breeze caught it and sent it up as the Rev. Miriam Lee tied the knot at 3,000 metres. The balloon deflated after it struck a tree in Kingsbury Grade, near Lake Tahoe. The basket fell slowly to the ground, and no one was hurt. "We do specialty weddings but we don't guarantee such exciting landings," Lee said.